

DOINGS OF MR. VAS AT JHENIDAH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Jhenidah, April 20.

Those of our English friends, who sometimes find fault with us for our want of "virility", have I fear very little idea of our difficulties. Here the executive officers are armed with powers from the sole of their feet to the crown of their head. The Indians are utterly helpless before such men who rule the country. It means practically ruin to the former, if they show any independence when they come into collision with these officials, for the latter will bring their opponents down with the help of the authority vested in them. Here is a concrete case in support of my contention which, I trust, will draw the immediate attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

After defraying the cost of the celebration of the King-Emperor's Coronation festivities at Jhenidah, a sum of about Rs. 3,000 was saved. As the supply of good drinking water is a crying necessity here, it was resolved at a general meeting of the Jhenidah public presided over by the then Sub-Divisional Officer, Mr. J. J. Barnavelli I.C.S., to devote the amount to the excavation of a Corporation Tank at Jhenidah. It was also resolved at the above meeting that the grounds round the Coronation Tank be laid out into a park, and that as Mr. Barnavelli, the President of the Coronation Committee, took special interest in the Coronation matter, the park should be named after him. A Sub-Committee was formed to carry out the above resolutions of the General Committee. The Jessore District Board very kindly agreed to supplement the fund at the disposal of the public with a contribution of Rs. 2,000/-; and the Narail Zemindars, with their usual liberality in such cases, agreed to make a free gift of the land required for the purpose. Accordingly a site was chosen, and all necessary arrangements were made to begin the work last year. But on the ground of lateness of the season, the work was put off at the suggestion of the District Engineer. In the mean time Mr. Barnavelli was transferred and Mr. Vas I.C.S., our present Sub-Divisional Officer, became the President of the Sub-Committee.

After the last Puja vacation, the public were given to understand that arrangements were being made for the commencement of the work. But they were doomed to disappointment. In the beginning of December last a rumour was set afloat to the effect that Mr. Vas was not going to carry out the above-mentioned resolutions of the general meeting of the Jhenidah public. The Sub-Divisional Officer, at the urgent request of some of the pleaders, was prevailed upon to call a general meeting to gauge public opinion on the subject. The people headed by the local pleaders and Mooktears mustered strong at the meeting and requested Mr. Vas not to change the scheme settled in the previous general meeting. But finding Mr. Vas obdurate, the public, in order to coruscate him, next proposed that the scheme for the Barnavelli Park might be abandoned and the money saved thereby be utilised in buying necessary instruments for the Local Charitable Hospital. But nothing save his pet scheme would satisfy Mr. Vas. He is still trying with the help of the Coronation Sub-Committee, the majority of which are composed of his official subordinates to divert the grater portion of the Coronation Fund, against the wish and consent of the public for the so-called improvement of the Local Charitable Dispensary.

Since the date on which the above general meeting was held by Mr. Vas, the people of the town, specially the pleaders and Mooktears, have to feel the consequence of Mr. Vas's displeasure. Prosecutions under sec. 29 of Act V. were started against most of the pleaders and Mooktears. These prosecutions were subsequently dropped as Mr. Vas was not sure of conviction under the above Act. The public fondly hoped that the temporary irritation of Mr. Vas had passed away with the withdrawal of the prosecutions; but they counted without their host. Mr. Vas soon after asked the local police to draw up prosecutions against most of the pleaders, Mooktears and some of the shop-keepers under a stronger instrument this time, viz. Sec. 290 I. P. Code. But as it was found that most of the cases cannot come under Sec. 290 I. P. Code, only three prosecutions have been instituted.

As these cases are "sub-judice" I do not wish to say anything now about their merits. Finding that he could reach most of the pleaders and Mooktears and other people under Sec. 290 I. P. C. Mr. Vas hit upon a novel plan for satisfying his unreasonable grudge. He, of his own motion, took the assessment from the Panchait after the 1st quarter's tax was realised, and enhanced the tax of the pleaders and Mooktears and other non-official gentlemen, and let off altogether those persons who were paying a tax from 6 annas to 9 annas a year without an enquiry. As the tax was fixed by the Panchait before the commencement of the year according to law, and as the first instalment of the tax so fixed was realised by the Panchait, Mr. Vas had no authority to revise the list of his own motion. But law and decency must give way before Mr. Vas's displeasure. A comparison of the former and the present enhanced taxes will speak for itself. Mr. Vas actually blames the Legislature for limiting the tax to Re. 1 a month! The public do not know whether they have come to the end of their sorrows, and the attitude of the Sub-Divisional Officer has caused the greatest possible alarm and consternation among them.

The Tinnivelly District Board railway cess is to be utilised in the construction of a railway from Tinnivelly to Tiruchendur, on the sea coast, running through Palamcottah, Srivallur, Nazareth and other places. The length of the line will be 42 miles, and should give a good return to the District Board.

WH OPING COUGH.—This is a very dangerous disease unless properly treated. Statistics show that there are more deaths from it than from scarlet fever. All danger may be avoided, however, by giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It liquefies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, keeps the cough loose, and makes the spasm of coughing less frequent and less severe. It has been used in many epidemics of the disease with perfect success. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., and Abdool Bahaman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

INDIAN NOTES.

AN OOTACAMUND SENSATION.

The Government, acting on the advice of the Government Pleader, refused to allow the Collector to appear against the decision of the Subordinate Judge in Dr. Bischoff's case, in which the Secretary of State was ordered to pay Rs. 5 as damages for the illegal concealment of Dr. Bischoff's sporting license last season. Dr. Bischoff on Tuesday applied for a sporting license for the current season, and the Collector again refused to grant the same. Dr. Bischoff is appealing to the Government.

THE LATE TAI MAHARAJ'S DAUGHTER.

An application was to have been made on Saturday before Mr. A. Lucas, Sessions Judge and Agent to the Sardars of the Deccan, from the maternal uncle of Tai Maharaj's daughter, Shankerbai, who is eight years old to have his legal status as lawful guardian of the child confirmed. The Government Prosecutor, Mr. S. C. Dayar, was present to represent Baba Maharaj and to oppose the application in his behalf. However, as the applicant did not come to Court, the case was adjourned until the vacation, which begins from Monday.

THE BOMBAY MOHORRUM DISTURBANCE.

On Monday, Mr. P. Byrne concluded the enquiry touching the death of Jeewaji Nathubhai, a Borah, aged thirty-five, who was stabbed in Chinna Butcher Street during the recent Mohorrum disturbances, and died in the J. J. Hospital subsequently. Abdulla Haji Hoessein, arrested on a charge of murder of the deceased, was placed before the jury in police custody. The jury, after hearing the evidence, by a majority of six to three returned a verdict that the death of the deceased was due to wounds on the neck and abdomen, but by whom or under what circumstances the wounds were inflicted there was not sufficient evidence to show.

SUICIDE THROUGH JEALOUSY.

On the 18th instant, a Coroner's inquest was held at the G. T. Hospital Bombay touching the death of Tookaram Pando, aged twenty-five. Deceased suspected his wife of misconduct and there had been altercations between them. On Saturday last, at about midnight, they had a quarrel, and at about five o'clock yesterday morning Tookaram, in a fit of jealousy, cut off the tip of his wife's nose with a penknife as she was lying asleep. She awoke and raised an alarm, which brought some neighbours on the scene. The deceased then swallowed a quantity of arsenic. When the police arrived, deceased was found to be ill. The police removed the deceased and his wife to the G. T. Hospital, where the former admitted having taken arsenic. He died in the evening. A verdict of suicide was recorded.—"A. I."

THE ELECTRIC INSTALLATION OF BOMBAY.

The work in connection with the public supply of electric power and light which has been steadily progressing since last autumn, is now about to enter upon the final stage within a few days. The laying of the mains will be commenced, the power station at Wari Bunder is fast approaching completion, and it is expected that the whole of the machinery and plant, which is ready for shipment from England, will be out by the end of June. The Callenders Cable Company, Limited, of London, have obtained the contract from the Brush Electrical Engineering Company, Limited, for the laying of all the mains that have arrived, and the Company will start work this week. If reasonable progress is made with the work of laying the cables, and provided that it is not retarded by the heavy monsoon, there seems every likelihood that the supply will be available in some parts of the Fort by the end of September next. By the end of the year it is confidently expected that the whole of the Fort will have a public supply.

WILL LORD CURZON RETURN?

The Simla Correspondent of the "Advocate of India" writes: The question of whether or no Lord Curzon will return to India in October, is as uncertain as ever. His Excellency undoubtedly hopes to do so. He indicated in his last speech before leaving Calcutta, a number of matters which he intends to take up here next autumn, but the political horizon at Home is so uncertain that it is impossible to forecast events. The advent into power of the Liberals would not necessarily deter Lord Curzon from returning. Indeed Lord Rosebery's recent speech upon the Tibet question seems almost to have been intended to indicate that, what ever differences of opinion there may have been in the past, the Liberal party, as now advised, has no intention of losing so capable an administrator as Lord Curzon at the head of affairs in this country. It may be looked upon as certain, therefore, that the request made to Lord Curzon by the Unionist Ministry to accept reappointment next October, will be renewed by whatever party is in power when that date comes round. It is another question, altogether, whether Lord Curzon would care to accept extension of office in India under the changed conditions which would arise were a Liberal majority to come in this summer. It will be remembered that, in the converse case, when the Conservatives came in, Lord Elgin, the Liberal nominee, was confirmed in the Viceroyalty. Where a Lord Elgin could be spared by his own party in opposition, however, it is quite possible that a Lord Curzon would be wanted too badly to be allowed to leave the precincts of St. Stephens, where his eloquence would be a tower of strength to his colleagues.

BURNS AND SUITS.—Slight injuries of the cere of frequent occurrence in almost every hour hold. While they are not dangerous, except when blood poisoning results from the injury, they are often quite painful and annoying. They can be quickly healed by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It allays the pain almost instantly and heals the injured parts without matter being from which insures a cure in one-third the time that the usual treatment would require. It is the most perfect preparation in use for burns, scalds, sunburns, and like injuries. It should be applied with a feather before the parts become inflamed. For sale by

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NOTES FROM GAYA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Gaya, April 20.

PLAQUE.

So plague, the greatest scourge of mankind, has at last disappeared from Gaya after doing its dreadful work for full 5 months! This was the third year of its visitation, and never had its presence been felt so keenly as in the current year. No less than 7000 persons—men women and children—were among its victims. Never before had the daily mortality risen so high as 81 a day.

THE COURTS.

The visit of Mr. Justice Rampini was marked by the abolition of two out of the 6 Civil Courts at Gaya. The 3rd Munsiff's Court has been practically abolished while the 2nd Sub-Judge has been transferred to Alipore and none sent in his place. The works of the 3rd Munsiff's Court are done by the 2nd Munsiff and those of the 2nd Sub-Judge by the 1st Sub-Judge. Their files have become very congested. They cannot, with all their endeavours, cope with the work. In this connection I cannot help mentioning that our 1st Sub-Judge Babu Upendra Chandra Bose never rises before 12 when there are morning sittings to the great inconvenience of those who have to transact business before him. The heat of Gaya is proverbial, and still in his eagerness to clear the files of the two Courts singly, he himself incurs the risk and makes others who are less favoured of catching sun stroke. I hope he will consider the matter over again and rise at 11 a.m. as does his superior, Mr. Pittar. There are 76 higher grade pleaders here, and in the absence of 6 of the Courts, most of them are unemployed, and pass away their time sitting idle in the Library rooms.

THE FIRST MUNSIFF.

Babu Pramatho Nath Mukerjee has been transferred and in his place has come Babu Dakshina Charan Mozumdar. We know to our cost how unpopular had Pramatho Babu become among the members of the Bar by his unfriendly attitude towards some of them, and how unaccommodating he was to them. But his successor is quite a contrast to him. He is very polite and accommodating to the members of the Bar. People have begun to forget that cases are liable to be dismissed as a rule for failing to produce their pleadings on the spur of the moment. They now get justice for which they come to court and spent a good deal of their hard earned money. They have gained confidence in the present incumbent and matters proceed smoothly. The unpopularity of Pramatho Babu had reached to such a pitch that although Gya is generally known as a party giving district, not a single blessed soul ever proposed to invite him even to a teaparty not to speak of dinner or dancing party. Pramatho Babu must have felt it, and I hope he will mend his ways.

A TRANSFER.

Moulvi Subhan Ali Khan a senior Deputy Magistrate who was here for a long time has been transferred to Dinajpore. He was entertained at an evening party and a dancing party by the members of the Bar in the house of Rai Bahadur Babu Sital Prasad. Every one of those present had to say some good words to the guest on the eve of his departure from this place on Saturday last.

AN YOGEE.

A Sadhu has come here. He is putting up on the Brahmajoni hills near Kapildhara. He seems to be a well read man of intelligence. People flock to him every evening. His answers to the questions put to him on religious topics are very much appreciated by the general public and people have a high regard for his astute habit. Articles of food are of ten presented to him which he distributes among those present there.

AN AUGHUR.

A Faquir of the Aughur sect has also lately come here. He is putting up in a village called Mandanpore on the outskirts of the city. He belongs to the old Epicurean School and freely eats, drinks and makes merry. He has in his company some women. People flock there also. He is credited with some extraordinary power of mesmerism and hypnotism, but that has not yet been witnessed by impartial outsiders beyond his own circle of admirers. The only "Mantra" that he himself recites and asks others to recite is "Arung Barung Swaha." It is said that by reciting it 21 thousand times, the man will be able to see the deities, the sky and the earth and all other celestial beings. He is being watched by several persons to ascertain whether he is a really gifted Sadhu or simply a cheat in disguise.

A WILL CASE.

Mr. Pittar is engaged in trying a big Will case these days. It is said that the late Raja of Maksudpore Raja Ramesher Prasad Narain Singh executed a will in favour of his wife. It is attested by the Civil Surgeon, the Assistant Surgeon, the Senior Government Pleader and several other respectable men. Babu Chandreshwar Prasad Narain Singh his brother, has entered a caveat and is contesting the genuineness and the validity of the Will. Mr. Howard and a number of local pleaders appear for the Rani, while the objector is represented by Mr. A. H. Imam of Patna and others of the local Bar.

The experiments in the cultivation of rubber tried by the Travancore Forest Department having shown that Para rubber (Hevea Braziliensis) grows well in the low valleys of the jungles in North Travancore and English planters, Mr. Hunter, has planted a fairly large area with rubber plants. Some planters from the High Range are launching into a similar undertaking, and are negotiating for the purchase of land. The three varieties "Hevea, Castilloa" and "Ficus elastica" will grow well in the Travancore in the fertile valleys of the Periyar and in the lower basin of Kolathupuzha. These tracts are considered admirably fitted for the cultivation of rubber-yielding plants from the fact that climbers of caoutchouc-yielding plants grow spontaneously in these favoured regions of Travancore.

CROSSING LAKE BAIKAL IN WINTER.

[Specially Translated from the Russian Invalid.]

It was a glorious day. As the train neared Irkutsk, we could discern the city, lit up by the rays of the morning sun, outlined against the pale blue background of the sky, and the river Angara like a broad white shroud, spread before it. In summer, during the trip between Irkutsk and Baikal, the general subject of discussion is the state of the lake and whether the passage by steamer is likely to be fine or rough. In winter travellers speak of the cold, and speculate whether there will be wind or not. To cross Baikal against a head wind is extremely disagreeable. The railway line follows the course of the Angara, with the river on its left. It traverses first a snowy plain, and then passes chains of low sparsely wooded hills. We notice the ice on the river assuming gradually a more uneven appearance; then we observe huge green blocks, clear and bright as crystal, floating on the surface; the fissures become more numerous till on nearing the lake the broad green stream, free of ice, flows calmly onwards between its snowy banks. Flocks of wild fowl, startled by the train, fly forth and settle in the middle of the water. A slight, almost imperceptible haze, illumined by the brilliancy of the sunshine, hovers over the bosom of the stream. Wider and wider grows the river and now we reach our destination the great Lake of Baikal is before us!

The lake with its glittering snowy covering shines and sparkles like diamonds in the bright morning light and in the far distance can be seen snowy cloud-capped mountains. The port below swarms with a bustling crowd of human beings, looking in the distance like a flock of sparrows. A long row of sledges, drawn by small horses with tightly twisted tails, stands on the ice near the edge of the lake. The sledges are of all varieties, three horse, pair and single horse; there are broad roomy sleighs for the conveyance of baggage and even some smart town equipages. The horses, bay, gray and black, their coats covered with glistening rime, gaze seriously with their dark intelligent eyes at the crowd of people descending by the broad wooden ladder to the ice.

Gangs of labourers are busily engaged in repairing the "ice-breaker", which, later in the season, when the ice on Lake Baikal begins to melt, will be utilised to cut a broad canal through to the opposite shore, and to convey thither passengers and baggage, in the meanwhile the important work of transport across the lake is performed by horses.

On the edge of the lake temporary barracks are being hastily erected as halting stations where troops "en route" for the front can be housed and fed before proceeding on their journey. Some such barracks have already been completed. Here is the starting point of the railway line, lately laid down with marvellous rapidity, which runs straight as an arrow to the temporary station "Port Tanchoi", situated at a distance of 42 versts from the near shore of the lake. Along the whole length of the rail road runs a telephone line. At every seven versts along the road are low huts, which are light, spacious and warm, their walls being lined with felt; these serve as halting places where the soldiers can warm themselves. In the middle of the lake, at the station Sredina, is a somewhat larger halting place, boasting of a very fair restaurant.

A company of soldiers has just arrived at the edge of the lake. They put their heavy baggage into one horse sledges; all is ready. The crowd of black caps begins to assume a more harmonious appearance, the men form up and step out cheerily, glad to get free use of their limbs after the long confinement in the train; the company plunges into the snowy track stretching across the lake. The opposite shore seems to be quite close. The hills look as if you could touch them by merely stretching out your hand, but the company after tramping steadily onward for an hour still continues to pass the same objects, telegraph poles, resembling gigantic matches stuck into the snow, while the snowy crest of the mountains with its delicate fringes of fleecy clouds is still far distant.

A stage is reached. The iron stove is heated; the interior of the hut is warm and comfortable. The soldiers, clad in fur cloaks and long felt boots, laugh and talk gaily, making the most of the short respite. The ten to twenty minutes allowed for repose pass all too quickly. The order is given "to arms," then "singers to the front" and, as the company steps out briskly a mighty Russian war song rings out clear and harmonious over the frozen depths of Lake Baikal.

Suddenly a noise is heard like the report of a cannon. Some of the soldiers actually tremble. It is the ice-cracking. If you go nearer you will see a deep dark blue streak, running into the black water. The fissure widens out gradually until it attains a breadth of about two feet. Then it is seen that the ice covering the vast depth of water below is perhaps not more than three feet thick, and the horrible possibilities of the situation make one shudder with apprehension. On this fragile surface men have built houses, they drag heavy guns across it, and have laid down a railway line on which run the small engines of the Sestririetzsk, a railway drawing cars to the opposite margin of the lake. Is it not marvellous? What courage and energy have been displayed in the carrying out of such an enterprise. At Sredina the company takes its dinner. The final stage is performed in the evening, the sky grows dusky crimson. There is no more singing. The men are weary, probably owing to the unaccustomed hardship of the toilsome march, their mustaches and beards are white with frost, they plod stubbornly onward through the overdeepening snow; to move fast is impossible. Kerosine lamps, fixed at intervals along the entire route, throw a yellow gleam into the darkness, enabling the troops to keep correct direction, while the electric lights of Station "Tanchoi" are clearly visible in the distance. The moon comes slowly forth and commences to shine faintly. A brief spell, and the halting place is reached: the march is

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finished. The frost increases in severity, the sky is clear and of a greenish tint. The thermometer shows 30 degrees of frost.

Do these cheerful marches not form a brilliant commencement of the new campaign, are not they stirring pages in the records of the regiments that have tramped so bravely over the frozen depths of the mighty lake?

For "voluntary" passengers, for officers travelling individually, there are Government troikas and troikas on private hire. Government troikas, procurable through the railway officials, must be ordered at Irkutsk. Each troika can accommodate two first class and three second class passengers. The hire of a troika for three persons is nine roubles; and each passenger may take with him light baggage; the total baggage carried by each troika must not exceed 200lbs. in weight. Porters and Yamschiks (drivers) are paid highly for their services. The railway officials are as rude as ever, but it must be remembered that they are suffering from acute nervous excitement engendered by the knowledge that, for the time being, they are undisputed masters of the situation.

The general arrangements for crossing the lake are excellent, being under the personal direction of the Minister of Ways of Communication.

Each troika has a thick sheep-skin cloak instead of the ordinary cover, and is also provided with felt boots for the use of passengers.

General Rennenkampf, accompanied by a Cossack Officer of his Division, has already started and the remaining troikas with gaily tinkling bells have followed him. The Siberian "Yamschik" is a silent fellow. Clad in a cinnamon coloured sheep-skin cloak, with a dog's fur cap covering the whole of his face, he sits sideways on the box-seat, flourishing his whip from time to time and shaking the rope reins. Neither shout nor song issues from his lips. The horses know their business well. They move at a swift trot over the ice, doing their twelve versts an hour.

A vast expanse of glittering snow stretches between us and the far margin of the lake. Despite the extreme severity of the cold we breathe lightly and easily. The bright sunshine, the clear blue sky and the keen pure air, exhilarating to the spirits. Great black crows and shaggy haired dogs are seen in numbers near the track. What are they doing in the midst of this desolate wilderness of ice? The question is soon answered. Not more than 40 yards from the track lies the carcass of a horse, already half devoured by dogs, while overhead hovers a cloud of crows waiting their opportunity to complete the carrion feast. As we proceed, we see many more victims of cold and privation, their bones whitening the wayside. At station Sredina are assembled many passengers, some on their way to the front, others returning to Russia. Bound for the front are officers, naval and military, sisters of mercy and doctors. Of the homeward passengers are merchants, ladies and children. Those on their way to meet the enemy, are in high spirits; they call loudly for refreshments, and talk and laugh gaily. The others, mostly in a dejected frame of mind, some even in tears, remain silent, and content themselves with a modest glass of tea.

The restaurant, which might be a dwelling place in Nova Zembla, reminds one of a scene out of the adventures of Captain Hatteras in Jules Verne's novel! It is a low building, long and broad, lighted by hanging kerosine lamps, with floor, walls and ceiling lined with grey felt. The dining room is furnished with long white wooden tables and benches, and the china is of the simplest description. In the middle of the room is a four cornered iron stove with a circular pipe. The prices of refreshments are heavy. A small plate of stewed meat costs 50 Kopecks and a glass of vodka 40 Kopecks; but when it is considered that the restaurant stands on a thin layer of ice above the vast depth of the Holy Lake, that it is merely a temporary institution, and that it will be removed on the first signs of the ice melting in spring, no one will be disposed to grumble at the charges.

When we left Sredina, day had already dawned. The opposite shore could be discerned glimmering faintly through the silvery haze. It had taken us an hour and a half to reach Sredina, a similar distance remained to be traversed. Stimulated by vodka the Yamschik whipped up his horses urging them at a swift pace through the deep snow. The creaking of the wooden sleighs and the tinkling of the bells blended into monotonous music. We remained silent. Another hour and we could see plainly the electric lights and fires of the railway station, two other troikas tried to overtake us, but our stout bays held their own bravely and left their rivals behind. These wonderful little horses, after a journey of 42 versts, with a halt of only half an hour seemed but little exhausted.

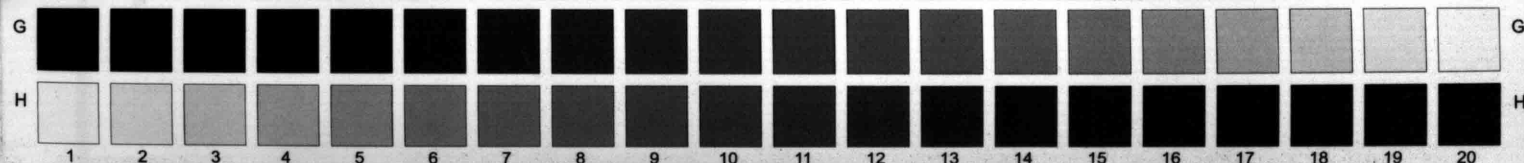
At station "Port Tanchoi" General Rennenkampf, true to his principles, showed every consideration to his fellow-travellers and gladdened us with the information that, by his special request, we should again be permitted to travel in the same car with himself. We arrived at the station at 7 o'clock in the evening and leaving before daybreak next morning arrived at Mysora at 9 a.m.

A St. Petersburg message to the Paris "Matin" states, on the authority of a member of the Imperial family, that mobilisation is actively proceeding. The Turkestan troops are being concentrated of the railway between Naryn and Koucha. The Grao Duke Nicola Nicolaevitch, General-in-Chief. The Russian Cavalry, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief in Turkestan.

A District Court-Martial composed of Major G. Calvert, 23rd Battery, R. F. A., as President, and Booms 80th Carmatic Infantry and G. L. Catell, 78th Mophah Rifles, as members, will shortly assemble at Port Saint George for the purpose of trying Corporal O. Randall, 1st Leicestershire Regiment, and Private S. Griffiths, 6th Dragoon Guards. Captain E. L. Challenor, 1st Leicestershire Regiment, and Lieutenant A. Fanshawe, R. G. A., will be the prosecutors.

BEFORE YOU START on a journey, procure bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy. This may save you much trouble and annoyance as it can not be bought on coarsely the cars or steamship. For all forms of colic and bowel troubles this remedy has no equal for sale by

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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 24, 1904.

THE ADVERTISEMENT SCANDAL IN THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

The reader may remember how the Government Auditors' Report for 1902-03 on the accounts of the Corporation created great sensation when it came before a monthly meeting for consideration in December last, as it contained many statements which were far from complimentary to the Municipal authorities. Paras. 27 to 29 of the Report dealt with advertising charges, and they revealed a state of affairs which was simply astounding. They showed a reckless waste of money, inasmuch as advertisements had been sent even to papers whose existence was scarcely known to the public and they had been paid at exorbitant high rates. It was, however, the "Indian Engineering," which secured the lion's share of the patronage. Is it a mere weekly paper which circulates not among the general rate-payers but among professional men, and it was paid Rs. 4,568; on the other hand, the "Patrika," which is a daily paper and read by the vast body of the rate-payers did not receive even Rs. 300! As regards the rates, fancy, that while "Indian Engineering" charged Rs. 30 for an advertisement, the "Englishman's" charge for the same was only Rs. 8! It was thus a regular loot in the Corporation.

As the reader is aware, a Sub-Committee was appointed to enquire into this and other scandals disclosed by the Auditors; and it would be interesting to examine at some length the explanation of the Department responsible and the finding of the Sub-Committee under the head of advertisement. It appears that attention had been drawn in the previous Audit Report to the continuous growth of this expenditure; but, as the Auditors observed, "instead of any attempt having been made to reduce it, it was still further increased during the year under audit." The budget grant for the year under this head was Rs. 12,298-9-6, an extravagant amount in itself, compared with the expenditure of the Bombay Municipality, which is about Rs. 7,000 a year; but the actual expenditure was Rs. 17,470-3-4 exceeding the budget grant by nearly 50 per cent.

The Auditors gave a list of the payments made to the various newspapers in which the Corporation had advertised and a comparative statement of the rates charged by them; and observed that "a careful scrutiny of the expenditure at once shows that due regard has not been paid to the suitability of the mediums employed for advertising or the rates charged by each paper."

The Auditors also drew attention to the defective procedure regarding the issue of advertisements to different newspapers. It appears that the Secretary would in each case put up for the approval of the Vice-Chairman a list of newspapers in which he proposed to insert a particular advertisement; but additions and alterations were frequently made in the list, and as these did not bear the Vice-Chairman's initials, there was nothing to show whether they were made with his knowledge or consent. "The number of insertions in each publication," the Auditors remark, "appear to be left entirely to the Secretary's discretion who has remarked, 'In every case I order publication I mention it to the Chairman or obtain his sanction.' We do not consider this to be sufficient from an audit point of view and would suggest that in every case, in future, the written sanction of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be obtained."

Upon scrutiny of the list of payments given by the Government Auditors, it is found that out of 47 newspapers in which the Corporation advertisements were published, the "Indian Engineering" alone, as stated above, received the large sum of Rs. 4,598, or over 26 per cent. of the total expenditure on advertisements in the year. We may observe in passing that at the time the Audit Report under consideration was published last year, the fact was freely commented on in numerous private circles and in some newspapers that the "Indian Engineering" had been converted from a bitterly hostile critic to a gushingly warm admirer of Mr. Greer and his entourage.

In the Departmental Report in reply to the criticisms of the Auditors an attempt was made to brazen out in a bare-faced manner. It was explained that "the numerous works taken in hand during the past year, and the necessary publication, as required by law, of a whole budget of bye-laws and regulations, have caused a large increase in the advertising charges to estimate which at the beginning of the year is no easy matter." So far as we recollect the "budget of bye-laws and regulations" was advertised during the subsequent year 1903-04; but assuming that these were published during the year dealt with in the Audit Report, no reason has been advanced why they should not have been foreseen by the Secretary and provision made accordingly in the budget.

As regards the extravagant charges made by the "Indian Engineering" and the "Railways" to which the Auditors had drawn attention, the department explained that the charges made by these journals were admittedly higher than the other newspapers; but "from enquiries made, it has been ascertained that the Corporation does not pay any more fee for its advertisements than do the Government Public Works Department, Port Trust, the Railway Companies, District Boards and Municipalities who sent advertisements freely to these papers. Nearly 95 per cent. of Corporation advertisements relate to engineering works." We should like to know whether the department could point to any of these publications having paid over 26 per cent. of annual expenditure on advertisements to the "Indian Engineering" alone, or over 36 per cent. to the "Indian Engineering" and the "Railways" combined as the Corporation paid during 1902-03.

We observe that the Sub-Committee has not attempted to justify or extenuate the extravagant increase of expenditure on advertisement charges as did the Secretary of the Corporation in his departmental report. The Sub-Committee have recognised that "the expenditure on advertisements was high," and have observed that "too many advertisements have been given to the Indian Engineering having regard to the high rates charged;" and have recorded their opinion that 8 newspapers

including the "Indian Engineering" and the "Railways" which were paid during 1902-03 the sum of Rs. 9,489 altogether or nearly 55 per cent. of the total year's expenditure on advertisements "were necessary as means for the publication of the advertisements of the Corporation." The Sub-Committee have also found that the Chairman's standing orders with reference to the procedure for advertising have not been attended to.

Strong as this condemnation is and sufficient as it would have been considered in any decent public office to require some substantial punishments to be inflicted on the responsible officer concerned, all the circumstances of the case brought to light by the patient and persistent investigations of Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, one of the members of the Sub-Committee, incline us to agree with Mr. Nolin Behari Sircar, C.I.E., who, in signing the report of the Sub-Committee, made, among others, the following observations:—

"The remarks in the report appear to me to be too mild having regard to the gross remissness shown by the executive in this respect. The expenditure has been recklessly extravagant, in utter disregard of the budget provision. The enquiry by the Sub-Committee disclosed that in giving advertisements hardly any rational principle was followed; exercise of unjustifiable patronage seems to have been the rule."

In our next, we shall show how the scandal originated and how it gradually developed till it assumed the gigantic proportions which it ultimately did.

THE ADVERTISEMENT SCANDAL OF THE CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA—II.

We showed yesterday how, in the opinion of the Government Auditors, it was practically a loot in the Corporation in the advertisement matter. No fixed methods were adopted in the distribution of the advertisements; the principle, namely, that those papers which were daily read by the vast majority of the educated rate-payers, from the highest to the lowest, were the best mediums for advertising purposes, was totally ignored; while, some weeklies, whose circulation was limited to professional men, were not only favoured with the largest number of advertisements but allowed rates which were exorbitant on the face of them. One of these latter, it should be noted, was a bitter critic of the administration of the Corporation—namely, there was an interesting passage at arms between the editor of this paper and the Secretary to the Corporation two or three years ago; but it suddenly became a gushing admirer of the doings of the executive authorities for reasons which have not yet been explained to the public. This paper alone, as we pointed out yesterday, pocketed Rs. 4,598, or over 26 per cent. of the total expenditure of the advertisements in the year!

It is to the industry of Mr. Cotton, who went to the bottom of the affair and made a précis of the file relating to the subject of advertisements, that we are indebted for the following interesting facts. It appears that in November, 1900, the Chairman, at the suggestion of the Vice-Chairman, passed an order in writing sanctioning the insertion of advertisements in three groups of newspapers. The first group comprised the three Calcutta Anglo-Indian daily papers and the "Capital," the second group contained the "Indian Mirror," the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," the "Bangalore," and the "Moslem Chronicle," the last mentioned having been added to the list under the Chairman's order in May 1901; while the third group was composed of three vernacular newspapers.

The Municipal Act requires advertisements in two English and two vernacular newspapers. The Chairman's order was that advertisements were to be sent to one newspaper in the first group and one in the second group by rotation and two newspapers of the third group in turn. When any special subject had to be dealt with, it was laid down that special instructions of the Chairman were to be obtained. This was an order, which though not free from defects was good in its own way; for, barring additions and alterations in the groups and advertisements relating to special subjects in special papers requiring the Chairman's sanction, it reduced the distribution of advertisements to a purely mechanical process leaving no room for the exercise of any discretion in the matter.

These orders of the Chairman, though addressed to the Vice-Chairman, were never communicated to him by the Secretary. In fact the Vice-Chairman had repeatedly asked the Secretary for a copy of the order but could not obtain it. On a requisition of the Vice-Chairman for a copy of the order, a clerk in the Secretary's Office wrote "shall I send a copy of Chairman's order?" The Secretary's only comment upon this was "seen; issue" (i.e. the advertisement). A few days previous to this, the Vice-Chairman had asked the Secretary to send him a copy of the Chairman's orders on the subject to see if they were being strictly followed in the distribution of advertisements; and the Secretary noted in reply that "the advertisement in question was ordered by the Chairman who gave instructions to me as to the papers in which the advertisement was to appear." But there was no order in writing of the Chairman to be found and neither this nor the previous orders of 1900 were sent to the Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Cotton further discovered that a clerk in the Secretary's office had put up on the 9th of August 1902 the following note:—"It sometimes happens that the manager of a newspaper sends in a letter for permission to insert a certain advertisement in his paper. In some of these cases you order the advertisement to be sent to that paper. In such cases the sanction of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman is not obtained. But we are required to state in each voucher to the printer of the newspaper the date of the sanction and the designation of the authority of Chairman or Vice-Chairman who sanctions the advertisements. Kindly instruct what we are to do under the circumstances referred to above." On this the Secretary wrote: "In every case in which I order publication I mention it to the Chairman and obtain his sanction."

As Mr. Cotton pointed out to the Sub-Committee there was nothing to show how the "Indian Engineering," the "Railways" and the "Indian Eastern Engineering" came to be in the list of eligible paper at all; and yet these papers had received Rs. 4,568, Rs.

1,780 and Rs. 412 respectively. "The Evening News" which had received Rs. 772 during the year under audit and Rs. 908 during 1903 owed its inclusion in the list to the following order scribbled by the Secretary upon a copy of the paper:—"Primotha Nath, put this paper in list of advertisements." The same was the case with paper after paper, additions to the list having been made by the Secretary of his own authority, in the case of only one newspaper, the addition having been made with the Chairman's sanction. In regard to the "Indian Planters Gazette" there was the following order by the Secretary on a slip—"Contract clerk, please send a few casual advertisements as occasion offers." In the course of the year covered by the Audit Note the paper received Rs. 320, but during the following year the amount was Rs. 2,039. That was what was meant by "sending a few casual advertisements as occasion offers."

As regards the high rates charged by certain Engineering papers which have since been decided by the Sub-Committee to be unsuitable medium for the advertising Mr. Cotton pointed out that although there have been correspondence with other papers regarding the reduction of rates there was nothing of the kind as far as the "Indian Engineering" was concerned. The natural inference, bearing in mind the large sums the paper received, was that advertisements in its columns were continued at the same rates, and this in spite of the fact that the Chairman had stated in open meeting that no further advertisements could be sent to the paper unless its rates were substantially reduced.

In July 1902 the Vice-Chairman accorded his sanction to a list put up by the Secretary subject to the following qualification:—"Sanctioned; if in accordance with Chairman's order, for distribution of advertisements." The Secretary's clerk upon this pointed out to the Secretary that certain papers in the list were covered by the Chairman's standing orders, but at two others were having the advertisements sent to them, "simply because the post advertised related to an Engineering matter." The clerk was evidently thinking of the Chairman's order on this point, yet the Secretary's sole comment upon it was "Issue." On several occasions, papers had actually been added to the list "below" the Vice-Chairman's signature. In reply to these criticisms of Mr. Cotton the Chairman admitted that these matters had not come before him at all; and yet the Secretary had ventured to tell the Vice-Chairman and his own subordinates in writing that in every case of publication he mentioned it to the Chairman and obtained his sanction. Comment on this is superfluous.

The Corporation at a recent meeting adopted the report of the Sub-Committee. It now remains to be seen what action the Corporation will take to mark their sense of disapproval of the action of the Secretary and his subordinates before the Sub-Committee when enquiring into the matter. The funds of the Corporation have admittedly been wasted to the extent of thousands of rupees by what would probably be considered by every unbiased person to be the wilful disregard of the orders of the Chairman and by the assumption of an authority by the Secretary which had never been conferred on him and which was never intended that he should possess.

JAPAN, THE LAND OF THE PATRIOTS.

If Nadia was the city of learned men when the Lord Shree Gouranga was born in Bengal about 425 years ago, Japan has given practical evidence of the fact that, a whole nation, including women and children, can be converted into a race of fervid patriots like of whom was never witnessed in the world. Yet the Japanese physically are no better than the rice-eating rascals of Nadia and Jessore.

The Japanese have ever been looked down with contempt for their stunted growth, and are nicknamed "yellow dwarfs." Several years ago, the Mikado appointed a military Commission to ascertain why the physique of the Japanese troops was inferior to that of the British, German, and other armies. The Commission came to the conclusion that beef and beer helped to build up the stalwart frames of Occidental fighting men.

So, it would be seen, that beef and beer have their uses. On the other hand, the dwarfish and rice-eating Japanese have shown that, in real work, they are not only in no way inferior to the European soldiers; but, being sober and cool-headed, they can fight better than those who make themselves practically beasts on the battlefield by eating meat and drinking liquor.

The "Hochi Simbun" (Daily Reporter) is an influential Japanese paper at Tokio. An American friend has kindly sent us translations of a few of its articles which give some idea of the patriotic feelings which have been evoked in that country by the Russo-Japanese war. The whole of Japan turned loose and rejoiced boisterously over the victories at Chimuipho and Port Arthur. "The confusion in Tokio," says the "Hochi Simbun," "is very great. Even the messenger boys and the milkmen are so jubilant that they have no respect for their elders."

Feasting is going on on all sides. The clubs and societies are keeping open house; scores of business houses are closed. Country people have come into the city by the thousand to join in the celebration, and in many cases the entire population of a town has escorted its recruits and reserves to the barracks.

The women are calm, because they know that if their husbands and sons are among the dead or wounded they have reached the chief end of man—they have spilled their blood for the country.

Mothers and wives are giving no evidence of excitement other than going to the temples to buy lots. At the Kotohira Temple of Shiba on the tenth—the temple's fest day—thousands of women bought lots.

The gods take good care that these lots bring good news to the purchasers—that the son will win glory on the sea; that the father will lead the charge on the enemy, that the husband will meet a glorious death on the battlefield. And so the women go back to their homes calm and content.

This Spartanlike readiness of the Japanese women to give up everything for the good of the country is shown in miniature in the sacrifice of a school-girl.

Miss Hanemura Masa, whose name is now known all over Nippon, is in the fourth grade of the Yokohama grammar school. When the official announcement came showing that the Government had decided "on war" with

presented herself at the barracks, sought out the commander with that infinite patience peculiar to her sex in Japan and handed the officer a letter. This was the letter that little Miss Masa had written:

"With a war with Russia in prospect, I have saved every cent of the money that my mother gave me to buy candy with and now I have got three yen and thirty-five sen, and I wish it to be used for the army and navy expenses. I shall be very glad if you accept my little present, and I send it with the letter."

Soldiers are being collected by thousands at Yatsuya, Akasaka, and other places. The inhabitants of these cities are vying with one another in housing and feeding the recruits.

Where an Occidental would, to say the least, not solicit a burden, many a Jap in Tokio actually is downcast in the face of victory because he is not burdened with a corporal's guard at the smallest calculation, of his country's defenders. Even the poorest are indignantly refusing to take compensation from the Government and putting such money in the war fund when they are made to take it.

The soldiers are behaving splendidly, and have a full realization of the task upon which they have entered. A private, recently arrived from an interior post, said to the family on which he was billeted:

"This is not like the war with China."

Unlike most soldiers entering upon a war the Japanese do not despise the prowess of the Russians. They pretty generally realize that they will have able antagonists.

At the same time they are not perturbed in the slightest by the thought. Even the recruit does not dream that it can be otherwise. Wherever you see a soldier, there you will find a fighting optimist, and a man who is more than ready to lay down his life for his country.

"We must die once, some time," said a soldier to a friend who bade him good-bye as he was about to start for the front on a troop train the other day, "so it is better to die for the country." And he added: "I have a chance to do my best for my country now."

"If I die in my bed, I cannot leave fame behind for the consolation of my mother. It is better to die on the battlefield than in bed."

"What fear have I of the Russian soldiers?"

No, I don't want to drink until the war ends.

"I shall be glad to die on the battlefield, and when I am killed please drink my health then."

Another soldier got leave for a day.

"I am going back to bid farewell to my mother," he told his comrades. "On Jan. 5 she came to Tokio and I bade her good-bye then, but she is very hard-hearted, so I go to see her once more. She said then:

"If you are ordered to the battlefield, do not come home. I will not forgive you if you do, for since you became a soldier there is no relation of mother and child between us. The Emperor is the father of the country, so you must obey him and be patriotic and do your best and die for him."

"Do not regard your life, and you need not come home. Your sister is at home; the two of us can get along comfortably. This is my last day with you—good-bye."

Another Japanese mother behaved in a way which has no parallel in the world. This is what the Tokio representative of the "Tageblatt" writes:—

"A woman at Takasaki learning that her only son was exempted from active service on the ground that she was dependent upon his earnings, immediately committed suicide. In a letter she stated that she was killing herself in order her son might be free to fight for the Fatherland against the Russians. She committed the deed by plunging a dagger into her heart. Before her last breath she handed the weapon to her son, making signs that she expected him to use it against the enemy. Picking the dagger, the son hurried away and volunteered for active service."

When the War of Independence was declared in America, instances of mothers parting with their sons for fighting the cause of their country were found every now and then. But a mother daggering herself to death in order to enable her son to take part in the defence of her country is unknown in the annals of the world. The Christian Russia is no doubt invoking the aid of God Almighty in all her chuscher to give her victory; but what can poor God do in the face of such unexampled sacrifices on the part of the Japs?

It is an admitted fact that India is the most non-criminal country in the world.

Fancy that a single alien Magistrate, with a few hundred Policemen, is capable of keeping the peace of such a large District as Mysore, a single containing four millions of souls!

A more gentle and law-abiding people like the Indians is not to be found anywhere; yet, they are subjected to a ferocious system of criminal administration which no civilized nation would tolerate for a moment. The first offenders in England and America, when they are sentenced to less than 2 years' imprisonment, are, as a rule, let off with a simple warning. But here, very little difference is made between first and second offenders, except this, that if the former are given one year's hard labour for a petty theft, the latter are punished three times more severely. There was not a better Judge in Bengal than the late Mr. Knox-Wright. Even he sent a man to fourteen years' imprisonment for having stolen a brinjal, worth not even a farthing, because he had two or three previous convictions against him. We find that the Prison Association in America has once more called attention to the evil which comes of sentencing first offenders to jail. This leads the Philadelphia "Press" to ask the pertinent question why all first offenders should not be placed on probation, provided their sentence is for not more than two years. The old idea was that first offenders should go to reformatories. But the probation system has shown itself far superior to the best reformatories, not only in those American cities where it has been tried but abroad as well. According to the "Press" before the probation law for first offenders was passed in France about thirteen years ago, 46 per cent. of those sentenced once were sentenced again. During the first ten years of its operation only 12,420 first offenders were again brought into court out of 230,000 to which it applied. Under the old system 92,000 would surely have become confirmed criminals. The net saving in citizens was thus 78,580—a truly astonishing and encouraging showing. If a similar law should be on the statute book of any country it is that of India.

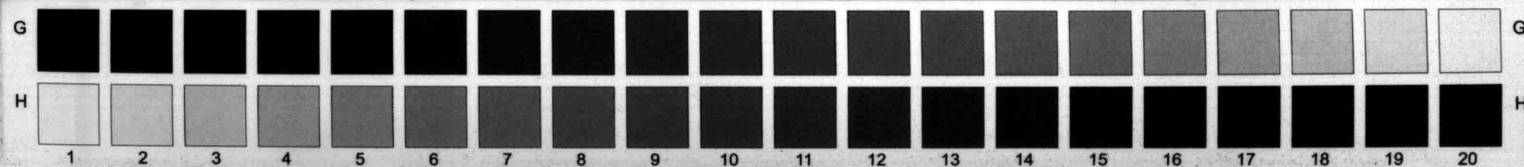
The Natu-brothers scandal is now in evidence before the public. The brothers were no doubt released by the Bombay Government when the latter could not bring a iota of evidence against them; but all their proper confiscated were not returned to them. Thereupon, one of the brothers, Sardar Babu Ramchandra, addressed a letter, dated August 25, 1901, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, in which he made certain claims in connection with the gross wrong done to him. No reply has since been addressed to him. In May last year, Mr. Weir M. P. drew the attention of the Secretary of State for India to the matter, and the former promised an enquiry. But, the claims of the Sardar having received no consideration whatever, Mr. Weir again interpellated the Secretary of State on the subject on March 24. To his astonishment, Mr. Brodric replied that "there has been no change in the situation." It would thus appear that, even the subordinate Governments in India do not obey the mandate of Parliament. The late Secretary of State no doubt asked for an explanation from the Government of Bombay when Mr. Weir put his question; but none has been given. Who will after this deny that there is very little difference now-days between the position of a member of the British Parliament and that of the member in our Legislative Councils?

The Secretary of State for India was again interpellated on the Official Secrets Act, and this time by Mr. Schwann M. P. Mr. Schwann put two questions: (1) whether His Majesty's Government proposed to sanction the Act; (2) whether the Secretary of State, in view of the universal opposition offered to the measure, would advise His Majesty the King to withhold his approval of the Act. With regard to (1) Mr. Brodric gave the same reply that he had previously to Sir M. Bhownagari, namely, that the Act required no sanction from the Secretary of State for India, or from His Majesty's Government, and that it had already become law. As to (2) he gave no reply but merely stated that he would place a copy of the Act upon the table. It is quite true, that, the assent of the Secretary of State of His Majesty's Government is not necessarily required to an Act passed by the Government of India, but there is no doubt about the right of His Majesty's Government to veto it, under section 21 of the Indian Councils Act of 1861. We trust our friends in Parliament will return to the charge when a copy of the Act is laid on the table of the House, and insist on Mr. Brodric to advise His Majesty to signify through the Indian Secretary his disallowance of the law, thereby making the Act null and void.

As soon as Sir Andrew Fraser took charge of Bengal, we took the liberty of warning him that, one of his most disagreeable duties would be to keep his own subordinates under proper control. If His Honour would care to go through the files of this journal for the last two years, he would find that, with only a few honourable exceptions, the Magistrates of most districts as well as a good many Sub-Divisional Officers made themselves extremely unpopular by their high-handed and illegal proceedings. The principal reason was that Bengal had been practically without a ruler all this time. Sir John Woodburn was not a strong-minded Governor; and, owing to his continued illness during the last year of his rule, he had to leave the administration of the Province practically to his Secretaries. Sir J. Bourdillon, who officiated for him, had also no heart in his work, as he was not sure of the permanency of his post. The District Officers were thus left to themselves entirely, and some of them were led to commit atrocities which reminded the public of the old days of the Nawabs. But, Bengal has at last been blessed with a permanent ruler, who, judging from his antecedents, is incapable of tolerating high-handedness and illegalities in any form amongst his subordinates; we therefore expect relief at the hands of Sir Andrew. To-day we desire to draw His Honour's attention to two cases of Magisterial vagaries, the details of which are published elsewhere.

We have already noticed one case, in which Mr. Carey, the Magistrate of Murshidabad, is involved. Now since he has been put in charge of this district, he has performed so many somersaults, thereby putting the Government in an awkward position and bringing discredit upon his high office, that it is a wonder he is still allowed to stay there. The manner in which he caused the removal of the late District Engineer of Murshidabad; the unseemly quarrel he has had with a number of Khas Mehal ryots in which he was worsted in the end; the needless humiliation and disgrace to which he subjected a most respectable resident of Berhampore by causing his house to be searched for no fault of his; and several other acts which savoured of high-handedness or illegality have made him totally unfit to preserve his dignity in Murshidabad. And his latest proceedings in connection with the chur land, which are published in detail elsewhere, have simply staggered the public. "What next?" is now the anxious question in every one's mouth in Berhampore.

It will be seen that Mr. Carey is a man of extraordinary energy. He recorded his proceedings on the 5th of April during the day, and as soon as it was evening, he caused the chur land to be forcibly possessed by the beat of drum. He had no time to consult the Legal Remembrancer, or his immediate superior the Commissioner, or even a lawyer, whether or not he was justified in taking the steps he did. As the safety of the Empire was not endangered nor were the Sen Zemindars contemplating to steal the land and keep it concealed in their iron safe, this hurry on the part of Mr. Carey is not quite explicable. And why did he choose a dark hour for the accomplishment of his object? For, it is dark deeds, which are committed at dark hours. The reply of the Sen Babus to his notice reveals an astounding state of affairs. They not only deny totally the right of the Collector to the land, but tell him to his face that he does not know law, and that his proceedings are illegal and "ultra vires." We dare say, the attention of the Commissioner of the Division has by this time been drawn to this scandalous matter, and that he has taken proper steps to restrain Mr. Carey from committing further mischief. What, however, we fear is that, the Commissioner, or even the Board, is



quite powerless to cope with the irresistible will of Mr. Carey. For, if the late Mr. H. A. D. Phillips had fought with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Hon. Judges of the High Court, Mr. H. Carey has also tried conclusions successfully with the Commissioner and the Board of Revenue. His Honour is thus the likely person to manage him. Either Mr. Carey should be transferred elsewhere or he should be prevented from meddling with matters which unsettle people's minds.

Now, fancy the disastrous results of a protracted litigation between the Collector and a private Zemindar. Backed by the limitless resources of the Government, the Collector is likely to win in the long run; but, his victory means wanton waste of public money; it means that the Collector and his subordinates will have to neglect many of their important duties and dance attendance in courts like ordinary people; while as for the Zemindars, they will be well-nigh ruined and the general public will sympathise with them and regard the conduct of the Government with alarm and distrust. It is quite true that Mr. Carey should protect the interests of the Government. But why should he act in an illegal and arbitrary manner? And why should he not wait till the appeal pending before the High Court is decided? It is also a remarkable fact that none of his predecessors had any quarrel with private parties on the plea of protecting Government land. We earnestly hope, the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to intervene and nip the scandal in the bud, both in the interest of the Government and that of the Zemindars.

The next case to which we beg to invite the attention of His Honour is that of Mr. J. Vas, Sub-Divisional Officer of Jhenidah, Jessore. His antecedents are far from satisfactory. While in charge of Chandpur, Comillah, we had to notice his vagaries every now and then. It was expected he would improve with his increasing age, but, from the letter of our Jhenidah correspondent, published in another column, it seems, he is just now at war with the pleaders, muktears and other leading men of the town. And why is he out of temper? The only offence of the people is that they are for excavating a tank with the balance of the coronation fund raised by themselves, and he is for diverting it to some other purposes. It will be seen on going through the letter of our correspondent that, it was the predecessor of Mr. Vas, who with the consent of the subscribers of the fund, decided that, as Jhenidah was in urgent need of wholesome drinking water, so the money saved after meeting coronation expenses should be expended in excavating a tank. But, it is clear Mr. Vas has no respect either for the feelings of his predecessor, who was fully his peer, nor has he any sympathy with the people who are crying for water. Nor is this all. Can it be true that he is prosecuting criminally many of the pleaders and muktears who opposed him in this matter? We can hardly credit this statement; yet, it comes from a party whom we cannot disbelieve. An enquiry into the matter will disclose the correctness or falsity of this allegation. We need hardly tell His Honour that the people of Jhenidah, which is rather a backward Sub-division, are very much alarmed by the proceedings of Mr. Vas. The beauty of the whole thing is that the fund does not belong to Mr. Vas but the public; yet, he would have it expended in his own pet way.

The libel upon the Bengalee race by Macaulay, one of the best writers in the English language, is destined to endure for ever. To his credit, it must be said, however, that if he abused a particular race of India he meant well towards the people of this country. Let us quote some of his words to show with what noble ideas were the early British rulers inspired when they built up the Empire of India. Said Macaulay (1833):—"Are we to keep the people of India ignorant, in order that we may keep them submissive? Or do we think that we can give them knowledge without awakening ambition? Or do we mean to awaken ambition, and to provide it with no legitimate vent? Who will answer any of these questions in the affirmative? Yet one of them must be answered in the affirmative by every person who maintains that we ought permanently to exclude the native from high office. I have no fears. The path of duty is plain before us, and it is also the path of wisdom, of national prosperity, of national honour. To have found a great people sunk in the lowest depths of slavery and superstition, to have so ruled them as to have made them desirous and capable of all the privileges of citizens would, indeed, be a title to glory all our own. The people may pass away from us. Unforeseen accidents may derange our most profound schemes of policy. Victory may be inconstant to our arms. But there are triumphs which are followed by no reverses. There is an empire exempt from all natural causes of decay. These triumphs are the pacific triumphs of reason over barbarism; that empire is the imperishable empire of our arts and our morals, our literature and our laws."

In another place he said:—"The relations between the Bengalee and the English were such that the English were like wolves and the Bengalee like sheep, or the English were like demons and the Bengalee like men." This is what he said about public employments:—"I allude to that wise, that benevolent, that noble cause which enacts that no native of our Indian Empire shall, by reason of his colour, his descent or his religion be incapable of holding office. At the risk of being called by that nickname which is regarded as the most opprobrious of all nicknames by men of selfish hearts and contracted minds—at the risk of being called a philosopher—I must say that to the last day of my life I shall be proud of having been one of those who assisted on the framing of the Bill which contains that clause. We are told that the time can never come when the Natives of India can be admitted to high civil and military office. We are told that this is the condition on which we hold our power. We are told that we are bound to confer on our subjects every benefit which they are capable of enjoying;—no—but which we can confer on them without hazard to our own domination. Against that proposition I solemnly protest as inconsistent alike with good policy and sound morality."

Now-a-days the administrators are introducing measures of unmitigated repression with railway speed and with their eyes shut. Of course, they expect no danger from the Indians who have been thoroughly emasculated and who abhor violence and are instinctively loyal for small mercies. There is, however, a greater power than popular ill-will; it is the unseen blind force which the violation of moral laws carries with it. The English are the greatest nation upon the earth. But, to remain as such, they must nourish the virtues which made them so; if they fail to do it, they will gradually come down as a nation. The official report of the French Government shows that the number of swords accorded to exhibitors of the United States was 2,379; of Germany, 1,983; of Great Britain, 1,865; of Russia, 1,754; of Hungary, 1,351; of Japan, 1,307; of Austria, 875; and smaller number to those of nations of lesser importance. England has all along held the first place as manufacturers, but imperialism has brought it down to the plane of Russia.

The other libeller of the Indians is that clever, but superficial writer, Kipling. He gained notoriety more by appealing to the worst passions of his countrymen than any solid talent. His writings are bound to be forgotten in time, for they do not elevate, but brutalize. He has written many things about India which made his reputation, but his writings are based, not upon fact but upon fiction, prejudice and malice. In his "Man and Beast" he is pleased to depict the Hindus, the most humane race in the world, as the cruellest in existence. We have no space to quote him, but we have space to quote a crushing reply to his libels by Sir S. Birdwood which appeared in the "Indian Magazine and Review." It is reproduced elsewhere, to which we beg to draw the special attention of our readers. Mr. Kipling says that the Indians bleed turkeys to death, and flay goats alive, forgetting that Hindus at least never eat turkey, and that it is only the lower class Mohammedan servants of Europeans that kill them. As for flaying goats alive, that is of course a lie as every one knows. The reply of Sir George Birdwood to this foul charge is that if the low class Indians who serve under Europeans in India as menials, really commit these atrocities, they must have learnt them from the practices of Englishmen at home who bleed calves to death for white veal, and skin and crimp fish alive and throw crabs and lobsters alive into boiling hot water, and slowly stew living geese before a charcoal fire to produce in them a certain kind of delicacy. When Lord Curzon told the Indians that they should be happy because Mr. Kipling had recovered from a serious illness, we ventured to inquire why of all men we should feel particular love for this unscrupulous and brutal libeller of our helpless nation.

Here is an instance to show how Indians are often treated in a court of law, when the complainant happens to be an European. Dr. Patterson of the Khakhati Tea Estate reported at the Moran Police Station that a mare of his worth Rs. 700 had been poisoned. He suspected a syce dismissed for drunkenness, who was accordingly arrested. The stomach and intestines of the animal were sent to the Chemical Examiner, Calcutta, while the man was rotting in jail. The Chemical Examiner could discover no trace or poison in the viscera. The case coming on before Captain Playfair, Assistant Commissioner, Dibrugarh, he recorded an order of discharge in view of the Chemical Examiner's report. The matter should have stopped there. But that was not to be. Both the complainant and the Police moved against this order of the Assistant Commissioner, with the result that a second trial was ordered. At this trial, Major Hall deposed to the effect that strychnine is rapidly absorbed in the body and it is possible that an animal might die of strychnine poisoning without the stomach showing any trace of the poison. Evidence was also put to the effect that a man was seen loitering about the stable on the day the animal first showed symptoms of illness. And it was on the strength of this so-called evidence that an exemplary sentence of 2 years was passed upon the accused.

EVERY THING in India is done for the good of the people of India. Bengal is to be partitioned for the good of the people; education of the people ought to be put into the hands of officials for the good of the people. And the Official Secrets measure? That is also for the good of the people. This tempts us to quote the lines of McCready Sykes, who says:—"And the devil went back to his study, Said he, with a wink and a nod, Sure, the true way still to work my will Is to call it, the work of God."

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Ceylon, thus remarks in reference to the judgment in the case of Mr. Gibson, which was published in the "Patrika" the other day:—"You will find that the quality of justice as administered in India is not the same as administered in Ceylon, though the same Englishmen administer justice in both places. In the eye of law, there is in Ceylon no differences between Europeans and natives" but in India, the European officials, consciously or unconsciously take sides. I may here inform you that the accused coolies in the case are not natives of Ceylon, they are natives of Southern India."

Here is a puzzle for solution—how is it that the same Englishmen metamorphose and act differently in India and in Ceylon in the administration of justice though both are the helpless dependencies of England.

We are credibly informed that, as a result of the recent enquiry into the malpractices of some officials of the Calcutta Income Tax Office some further development may arise. A high official of the office has been called upon to explain certain matters in connection with the affair.

The management of the Kalka-Simla Railway are arranging for week-end special trains to Simla, and also for cheap ten-day trains. Single fare will be charged for the double journey, and these trains should prove very acceptable to officers stationed at Umballa and the cantonments in the hills below Simla and even further afield during the summer months.

SCRAPPS.

It seems that the views of all Bengal officials on the partition of Bengal from the Lieutenant-Governor downwards are already before the Government of India. It is said that the proposed territorial redistribution does not find much favour with the Civilian generally. We hope, the opinions that have been collected would be published before any action in regard to the proposed break-up is finally determined upon.

A special general meeting of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science was held on Saturday the 16th instant at 5-30 p.m. Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee was in the chair. On the motion of Moulvi Mahomed Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya, Dr. Amrita Lal Sircar, F.C.S. was appointed a Trustee of the Association in place of the late Dr. Mahendro Lal Sircar. A strong committee was then appointed, with power to add to their number, for taking steps in erecting a suitable memorial in honor of the late illustrious Founder-Secretary, Dr. Sircar, and for inviting subscriptions for the purpose.

It is a standing complaint of the Indian railway passengers that the quality of refreshments served to them at stations on railways is generally bad and insufficient. We are glad to learn that on a representation being made to the Traffic Manager, South Indian Railway, on the above subject, the latter has appointed a Brahmin Inspector, on a substantial salary, whose duty it will be to travel all over the Company's system and see that the requirements of native passengers are properly attended to. If any refreshment room contractor is found to provide bad food, or if complaints are made against him, and they are substantiated, he will be at once replaced by a man with a greater regard for the comfort and convenience of the travelling public whom he serves. Both the State Railway and other Companies may adopt similar methods and thus give a partial relief to the numerous disadvantages from which the Indian passengers suffer.

The report next deals with another scourge we mean plague. After giving the figures of the several provinces the Sanitary Commissioner observes:—"We fear not, and high medical authority is unable to hold out any hope; for the disease, in spite of all that learned research and science have done to combat, it is yearly gaining ground, and from the recent returns of infected centres, such as Bombay and Bengal in general, there does not seem to be any chance of the figures being less than those we have just quoted. It is more than probable that they will be higher." If the so-called sanitary measures and the so-called prophylactics were powerless to check the progress, then why put the people to so much trouble for them. Pray why this waste of public money and why white men are imported at princely pay for inoculation purposes? Plague is a poor man's disease and is due to bad and insanitary food. So if the Government, instead of wasting its energy in the wrong direction, had given sufficient food to the people, the disease would have disappeared from the land.

Every man who has a drop of humanity in him must be shocked to learn that last year in Bengal 150,971 persons died from cholera. The highest district ratios were those of Muzaffarpur, 24-Pergunnas, Howrah, Nadia and Faridpur. The Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, from whose report the figures are taken offers no remarks on this increased prevalence of cholera. He is silent because he dares not say anything against the Christian government whose own actions have brought about this havoc. It is an admitted fact that cholera owes much to bad and insufficient drinking water in the interior. The Local and District Boards have already been pumped dry by the Government and it is idle to expect that the Boards will do their duty without the required capital. So our Government is solely and mainly responsible for the deaths of so large a number of people, who would, perhaps, have survived if their legitimate requirements and wants were supplied, for which they had already paid!

So Col. Younghusband has been patted. He has got a certificate from the Viceroy. The officer in command of the survey party should now be recognised for having discovered a new road to Chumbi through Bhutan. The following is a description of the new road:—"The new road will start from Chalsa or some adjacent station. The Bengal-Duars railway will follow the ridge between the Dechu and Ammochu valleys for some forty miles, whence it will descend by an easy gradient to the Ammochu Valley and up the river to Chumbi, the highest point touched being about 9,600 feet. The road, which is 85 miles long, is traversed by dense jungle. The surveyors met with no obstruction from the Bhutanese. It is hoped that the new route will be practicable for carts the whole way. The present cart road along the Jelep route extends only 44 miles, and is generally broken up in the rains. The new route has also the advantage of being nearly 4,000 feet lower than the Jelep route at the highest elevation, and is some dozen miles shorter."

We are glad to learn that the attention of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court has been drawn to the proverbial law's delay and we hope that something will be done in this direction. Sometimes the parties are harassed by numerous adjournments for the convenience of the trying Magistrates. While in the majority of cases one of the parties suffer for the convenience of the opposite party. Such delays often used to happen in Calcutta and on the representation of the Chamber of Commerce a third Presidency Magistrate was appointed to dispose of cases within a reasonable time. But the state of affairs in the Mufasil remains as it was. Such a case hailing from the Twenty-four Pergunnas came on for hearing before Justices Pratt and Handley, presiding over the Criminal Bench of the Calcutta High Court. The full report of the case will be found in another column. This case, which, had been pending since the 9th of January last, drew their Lordships' attention, and they requested the District Magistrate to enquire and inform them whether there was any justification for such a long delay.

From the following figures taken from official reports it will be seen that the population of Bengal is decreasing. The birth-rate in Bengal rose by 116,994 over the previous year, and the death-rate rose to 33-43 per mille against 31-04 in 1901. The total deaths were 2,488,428, or 178,004 in excess of the 1901 figures. Nadia held the record for Bengal with the high death-rate of 50-09 per mille. Comparing the birth-rate of Bengal with that of other countries having the same area, it will be seen that the population is not increasing to that alarming extent as supposed by Lord Curzon. Further in no civilised country the death-rate is so alarming. The pet reasoning advanced by His Excellency in favour of the partition of Bengal, namely, that owing to the increase of population in Bengal it could not be governed well by one Lieutenant-Governor, falls to the ground when the above figures are taken into consideration!

In the opinion of Mr. Holland, of the Geological Survey, the Indian marble is the best in the world. Still Lord Curzon is bringing marble from Greece for the Victoria Memorial Hall at Calcutta because in his expert opinion Indian marble is not available for the respectable building. The truth is that, it is not for insufficiency or inferiority of the Indian marble that it is rejected, but that all that savours "native" should be studiously avoided in a building which is being erected by the Indians at their own expense and in memory of the late Queen who specially loved her Indian subjects. For the information of His Excellency we give below some interesting information regarding Indian marble:—Judging by its mineralogical character the marble of which the masterpieces of Mogul architecture were built must have come from the great Aravalli belt, which includes the quarries of Makrana in Jodhpur, Tonhra in Kishengharh, and Khanon in Ajmere. It is to the coarseness of its grain that this marble owes in part its resistance to the weather; it is its purity which enables it to maintain its white surface; and it is its translucence which gives it the delicate softness that could never be obtained from a fine grain marble more suitable for statuary than for architectural purposes. But the white marble of the Aravalli belt and Burma does not by any means exhaust the resources of India. We have in addition the magnificent yellow of Jaisalmer, the green of Motipura in Baroda, the pink of Ajmere, Kishengharh and Jaipur, the dark grey of Kishengharh and Jodhpur.

At the meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta, held on Wednesday last, the officiating Chairman Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that on submitting the Tramway Regulations to the Government for sanction, the Advocate-General held that it was for the Corporation to insist upon the tramcars being safeguarded. In pursuance of that opinion, during the last few days the Corporation had been in negotiation with the Tramways Company in order to devise, if possible, a safe and suitable guard so as to prevent people who boarded motor-cars and fell off from being run over by trailer cars. On Wednesday morning he, Mr. Banks Gwyther and Mr. Silk inspected a contrivance which was fitted on to a motor-car and which would be effectual in preventing the horrible accidents which had shocked public feeling in Calcutta. The following was a description of the new contrivance:—"In front of the motor tram-car is fixed a fender geared by a trigger to a level platform or catcher which, immediately on the fender in front being struck, drops to the ground and picks up anything between the rails. At the rear of the car, on the side at which passengers enter, is fixed a stout sheet iron guard making a small angle outwards. This should effectually throw forward from the rails any person who failed to get into the car while in motion. In addition, a fender is placed partly in front of, and all along, the entrance and exit side of the trailer car." We are told that the experiments were carried out with the aid of dummies and were regarded as successful. Let us wait and see how it works actually.

The Viceroy will give a State Dinner-party on the 25th instant in honour of Lord and Lady Amphil.

We are informed that Mauritius has been declared an infected island, and that the Plague Regulations, issued by Government, will be enforced in the ports of Orissa and Chittagong against vessels arriving from that island.

Mr. Meyer, in charge of the "Imperial Gazetteer," has arrived in Simla, where the work of his office will be carried on for the next six months. The cold weather has been spent in visiting the various Provinces with a view to organising and supervising the work being done by the local officers on special duty in connection with the "Gazetteer."

Mr. G. C. Whitworth wrote to the "Times of India" from Satara on April 15th:—"It is a remarkable fact, and perhaps worth passing notice, that in India the moon has been visible for 29 successive days ending yesterday. This is, in my experience, unprecedented. On the 17th March the eclipse of the sun rendered the moon visible. On the 18th the setting crescent (which novelists so persistently call the rising crescent) was just discernible for about ten minutes. It was hardly discoverable without a glass, but once found could be seen with the naked eye. This was not expected by the Mussulman authorities, who made the 19th the first day of their month. From the 19th March to the 13th April there was, of course, no difficulty. And yesterday morning the rising crescent could be seen near Venus from 4-30 till past 5."

—Philadelphia, March 25.—Oscar Leonard of Philadelphia, who was born without a nose, has submitted to a remarkable operation to replace the missing feature. After the anaesthetics had been administered, Leonard's face was laid open in triangular shape from a point between the eyes. Then the nail of his little finger was removed the skin lifted, and the finger inserted in the opening in the face at an angle which would provide a base for the building of a new nose. As soon as the skin of the finger had been fastened to the skin of the face, Leonard's body was put in a grip-like plaster of Paris cast, so that the finger would not be jarred out of place. The first part of the operation was then complete. In a sitting position Leonard is immovable, and in that position he will remain for three weeks. Then, if the grafting is a success, the finger will be amputated, Leonard's arm liberated, and the new nose built over the grafted finger. The nostrils will be made over a frame of silver tubes inserted under the finger bone frame.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, April 1.

ONE INEFFACEABLE SHADOW ON THE CURZONIAN REGIME.

Through all the period of history in which Lord Curzon's name as Viceroy of India will remain a subject of interest, one thing at least will always be remembered against him. In these days of audacious science, when it is boldly declared that there is no task too difficult to be overcome, Lord Curzon threw up the sponge and acknowledged himself and his race defeated. To his lasting shame and discredit, he declared:

First, that it was an impious thing, a claiming of the powers of the Almighty, to maintain that Famine in India could be wholly prevented; and

Second, he stated that the most dreaded of all diseases, the Plague, had come to India to stay for he was satisfied that no means which could be adopted would destroy it.

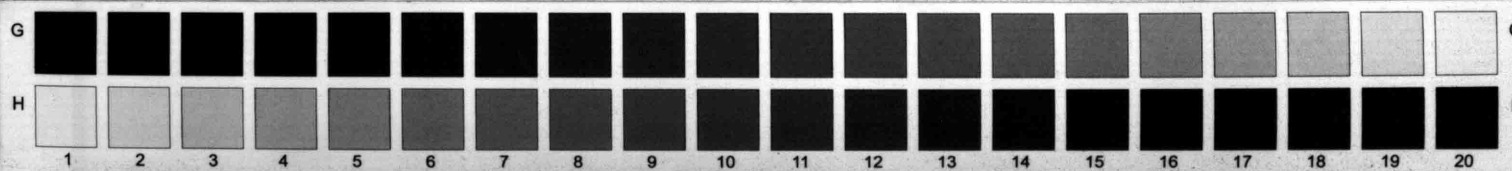
These things were said,—the first, in spite of the fact that every famine in India in the Nineteenth Century, and there were nearly thirty-three of them, were not God-sent but were Man-manufactured; the second, notwithstanding that the worst outbreaks of the disease in past times in India and in every other country run a course of a more or less definite character and then disappear for a prolonged period. The helplessness which he has displayed in the presence of Famine and of Plague is the most damaging proof that can be imagined of the practical failure of all his activities. It stands to the Viceroy's discredit that, in nothing which was for the economic improvement of the people of the country, has he been thorough. He has proved nothing to the bottom. He has merely played with things. It is true that he boasted in Council that his custom was to most thoroughly examine everything which came before him. No doubt this is correct so far as changes strengthening British supremacy in India are concerned, or when Lord Curzon wished to defend his own personal projects, as, for example, the Delhi Durbar. The adoption of the course followed by him in his defence of the Durbar, if applied to the economic condition of India, must, the laws of arithmetic being indisputable, have led him to the conclusions put forward in "Prosperous British India," and in the first article in the current issue of the "Hindustan Review."

Plague is in India to stay because Famine is in India to stay. The one is the sequel of the other. If Famine were not chronic, neither would Plague be incurable. Aforetime, Plague ran its course, killed off the weakly, and itself perished in the presence of the well-fed, vigorous people who were left. Now the weakly are in the majority; in every part of India considerably more than half the people are in dire misery and exist in a condition of continual hunger, the continual victims of inanition and, therefore, the easy prey of the Plague microbe. So long as Lord Curzon's views concerning Famine are held by the rulers of India, just so long will Plague be a great and terrible scourge among the people of India. How great and terrible it is we are beginning to realise in this country. Two days ago a Reuter's telegram informed us that the latest plague returns for the whole of India show a very considerable increase. The deaths for the week ending March 19 numbered 40,527, being an increase of 7,000 in seven days. The Punjab and the United Provinces, both with 10,000 deaths in the week, show the highest figures, while the Bombay Presidency has 8,500 and Bengal 5,000 deaths.

These figures are awful. Plague deaths, after several years of the ravages of the disease, at the rate of two millions, one hundred thousand per annum Plague began in 1896. Its course is marked in the following record of deaths:

| | |
|------|---------|
| 1896 | 2,219 |
| 1897 | 47,991 |
| 1898 | 89,265 |
| 1899 | 102,369 |
| 1900 | 73,576 |
| 1901 | 234,672 |

These are the latest figures I can find. Those for 1902 and 1903 are not yet published in this country. It is dolefully remarkable that the Punjab, which now loses ten thousand of its people from plague in one week, lost only 179 in the whole of 1897; in 1898, 2,019; in 1899, 255; in 1900, 572; and in 1901, 14,959. Now, ten thousand victims a week,—a mortality for plague alone at the rate of 520,000 per annum, whereas the entire number of deaths in the Punjab in 1893 was only 578,176, counting deaths from cholera, small-pox, fevers, dysentery, and diarrhoea, injuries, and all other causes. Again: take Bombay. Its mortality is at the rate of 442,000 per annum. And yet, in 1893, its mortality from all causes did not exceed 511,831. Plague, as it now exists in India, is simply the outward and visible sign of the all-the-year-round, ever-growing greater hunger of the people. And every plague death which has occurred since 1899, when the disease ought, in ordinary course, to have died out for want of victims, is a finger of pathetic reproach pointing to Lord Curzon as the Weak Ruler who allowed himself to believe that Famine could not be conquered in India when it has been overcome in every civilised, self-ruled country in the world. Lord Curzon might, had he cared to turn himself from the showy policies of retrogression and "native-baiting" into which he has so eagerly thrown all his energies, have commenced a campaign which, in a few years, would have ensured the full conquest of Famine, the Disappearance of Plague, and the Re-establishment of an India, prosperous in all its castes and classes. This could have been done. For what Man makes, that can Man unmake. The recent Famines in India are of British manufacture, they might have been British-prevented. That has not been done which cried clamantly that it should be done. The measure of Lord Curzon's failure is the significance attaching to this indubitable fact in the economic position of India in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. The failure is the greatest known in modern history and its consequences the most lamentable.



And yet, who, in England, cares for the serious condition of affairs in India, as revealed in the Plague figures? Not a single one of our Imperialist organs has had anything to say concerning the significance of it all, the suffering it causes, the discredit it throws upon the foreign overlord who does in India what he will. Only a Radical journal rates its voice, and that voice is but a feeble one. However, the "Daily News" does speak; even if its words be no stronger and better than these, which refer to what it calls "An Appalling Mortality."

"The news from India is very grave. It is long since we have had so heavy a record of plague mortality so early in the year. In 1901 the weekly bill for the Bombay Presidency was 2,000 in March, and the gravity of the situation was keenly felt. By October, the deaths in the Presidency passed 31,000 a week, and the whole year showed a total of 155,000, and the total for India was considerably more than double. Before the visitation was stayed in 1902 the deaths for all India amounted to 560,000. But this year, the middle week of March has shown a plague mortality for the whole of India of more than 40,000, of which 8,600, or four times the number in 1901, have occurred in the Bombay Presidency. It cannot be doubted that in the present year prospects are far more gloomy than in the last plague year, which, in turn, was worse than any year since 1896."

BRITISH INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PLAGUE.

The Parsi Member of the House of Commons, if he be not an ideal Member for India, and nobody would claim that for him, is, without doubt, most energetic in his championship of British Indians in South Africa. On Friday evening last he asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would fully state the terms of the message in which Lord Milner, or the Transvaal authority, had asked permission to place some locations or residences of British Indian subjects in Johannesburg under the provisions of the Chinese Labour Ordinance owing to the prevalence of plague there, and what reply he had sent to the message; and whether, in view of the general powers of the local administration to provide sanitary safeguards in such an emergency, he would recommend that recourse be not had to the Ordinance which distinctly provided that it was not applicable to British Indian subjects. Mr. Secretary Lytton was able to reassure the hon. Member, and to make it clear that no special indignity was being put upon British Indians in Johannesburg because of the plague. He replied: "The message to which I referred in my remarks in the House yesterday, and which, as I stated, seemed obscure, did not, I find, bear the meaning which I attached to it at first, and, indeed, related to another Ordinance altogether, which does not concern the treatment of Asiatics within the Transvaal. I have no reason to suppose that recourse will be had to the Labour Importation Ordinance in connection with the plague." There is not much in this to be thankful for, but it is at least a further recognition of the fact that some rights still attach to the British Indians in the Transvaal.

BRITISH WICKEDNESS: A HINT TO LORD CURZON.

The Viceroy is fond of posing as the Guardian Angel of the people of India. This desire of his has been manifested in numerous ways. Should he wish to confer lasting good upon the three hundred millions of British Indians and British-protected Indians, let him, before he leaves Calcutta or Bombay, seek for the reincarnation in his own pious body of the Directors of the East India Company of 1801. These worthy gentlemen, so far as they could, stopped all intercourse between Indians and Englishmen because those said Indians would suffer so much deterioration in mind and body from contact with English people in England. Let Lord Curzon, sharing these sentiments, improve upon the acts of the men of a hundred years ago. Before he shakes the dust of India from his feet, it is his duty, I humbly submit, to issue a ukase forbidding any Indians, on whatsoever plea, to come to England. Bad as were the people here in 1801, their successors in 1904 are, surely, far worse, and cannot fail to corrupt the Indians whose misfortune it may be to meet them. Indians should be kept from contact with evil, and Lord Curzon can so preserve them from most serious evil—and he will. I realised a day or two ago how much of crime and wickedness exists among us which is wholly unknown in India, and it would be a pity if Indians were to see and perhaps imitate it. My friend, the Rev. Benjamin Waugh, the Children's Friend, as he is deservedly called, has once again besought me for a subscription in support of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, of which Society their Majesties the King and Queen are Patrons. If the United Kingdom is to rule India with wisdom and with judgment, surely Englishmen should first learn to have as much natural affection for their children as the "beasts which perish"—to say nothing of the men and women who live in "heavenly" countries. They are so far from this that, by way of inducement to me to subscribe, the following record of the Society's work in the United Kingdom from April 1, 1889, to February 1, 1904, is placed in my hands.

Total Number of Complaints, 366,429. Of these, 345,224 cases were found to be true, affecting the welfare of 952,845 children, and involving 462,936 offenders.

The following was the action taken in the cases: 273,764 were warned; 35,025 were prosecuted (33,835 being convicted and 1,190 discharged); 36,435 were otherwise dealt with. Of the children affected in the above cases, 746,801 were neglected and starved; 103,897 were assaulted and ill-treated; 67,309 were wretched little beggars and hawkers; 19,440 were morally outraged; 15,890 were sufferers in other ways. In 3,426 cases the cruelty ended in the death of the child. 890,694 supervision visits were made by the Society's Inspectors.

Is not this a hideous record? On the same day that I was importuned for money to help in stopping such damnable doings, my eye was arrested in a newspaper column by the following examples of incidents which are frequent in this country as the above record indicates:

1. Drugged Children said to have lain for two nights in an empty flat.

Extraordinary accusations are made against George Hallam, a draughtsman, aged fifty-five

who lives in Camberwell Grove, Camberwell, and who was yesterday charged with administering a noxious drug to his two children, Henry and Edith, "with intent to endanger their lives." "It has come to my knowledge that you caused chloroform to be purchased and that you took your children to an empty flat, where they were partly insensible for two nights and a day, and that their symptoms afterwards were those of persons recovering from the effects of chloroform or some similar drug. A bottle of chloroform which had been previously seen in your possession was afterwards found at the flat." Hallam intimated that he had no questions to ask, adding: "I think what the officer has said is practically a correct version."

2. A Girl Punished by Having her Hands and Feet Seared with Hot Irons.

At Wolverhampton Police Court an Inspector of the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children stated that he found a child who had been burned on the hand with a flat-iron and on the soles of her feet with a poker. Her right eye was blackened, cuts on her cheek, chin, and knees. The woman who ill-treated her, said that she "got into an awful temper with the child and could not help it—not for King George himself." The Headmistress at Himley School stated that when the child was first placed under her charge two years ago, she was bright, intelligent, and affectionate.

3. Ill-treatment of a Boy.

At Leicester Herbert King, aged forty, a labourer, was charged with assaulting and ill-treating his son Frederick, aged fifteen. One evening, after the boy got home from work, the man came in, and being drunk, proceeded to push his wife about. The boy said, "Steady, there," at which his father pushed him so violently that he fell in the fireplace, knocking his head against the grate, and causing it to bleed. The boy got up, and the man went to him, and deliberately bit off part of his ear. The boy screamed, ran out of the house, and went to the Police Station. He was taken to the Infirmary and had his wounds dressed.

The Tibet Mission.

Neither the Chinese Amban nor any representative of the Dalai Lama have as yet turned up at Gyantse to confer with Colonel Young-husband, and the Mission is still waiting patiently for them.

Reports from the Tibet Mission state that General Macdonald hopes to obtain a large quantity of supplies in and about Gyantse. This will be a great relief to the transport, and will lessen the number of convoys from the Chumbi Valley—an important consideration, as the line of communications is a difficult one.

The gunpowder which the Tibetans abandoned has done us more harm than all they have ever let off in our direction. It seems strange that ordinary black gunpowder, such as the Tibetans would use, should have done so much damage to our men which they were engaged in destroying it; strange too that two such accidents should happen almost simultaneously. Our correspondent is reticent as to details, but that has been a feature of such of his recent telegrams as have been passed by the censor. A change is also coming over the spirit of Mr. St. John Brodrick. A week ago he was positive that the mission was not going further than Gyantse. Now he declines to say whether it may not, after all advance upon Lhasa. This means that it very probably will.—"Englishman."

The fact that the second fight in Tibet took place in a snowstorm though the date was the 11th April shows how late the winter lingers in the Tibetan plateau. According to the maps Gyantse itself is shown as 12,900 feet above sea-level and the scene of the action was probably higher than this. To the east and west, too, are high mountain ranges running up to peaks of 16,000 and 17,000 feet, and the near proximity of these snowy heights must necessarily affect the climate. Not until the valley of the Sangpo itself is reached can the reasonable level of 11,000 feet be gained. The country certainly does not seem to be an attractive one, and its short summer cannot make up for the long and severe winter. It may be noted that Lhasa is shown at just under 12,000 feet, and here again there are peaks near at hand 4,000 and 5,000 feet higher. If a further advance should be the order of the day the troops will still have to march and possibly to fight in altitudes where summer weather will indeed be welcomed.

The latest accounts from Somaliland state that Brigadier-General Manning is seriously ill with remittent fever.

The following telegram was despatched on Thursday to the Secretary of State for the Colonies through the Ceylon Government:—The Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association, representing tea interests in Ceylon, enter a respectful but emphatic protest against the imposition of a further two-pence duty on tea. They submit that a crushing burden of over 100 per cent on a staple product is calculated very seriously to imperil its prospects and thereby the welfare of the Colony. They further respectfully submit that this Crown Colony is worthy of greater consideration.

—London, April 1.—A young lion is among the personal belongings which Mrs. Langtry, who arrived at Liverpool last night on the Cedric, brought home from New York. She has calculated that she travelled from seventy to eighty thousand miles during her successful tour through America and Canada. "It is really surprising," she remarked to an Express representative, "what the human system can endure in the way of strenuous work." Her most interesting experience she thinks, was her visit to a place called Langtry, in Texas. "It was founded," she said, "some twenty years ago by a famous man named Roy Bean, a sort of glorified cowboy, who made and administered his own laws. He called his town after me. I was in New Orleans when I received a wire from the citizens of Langtry asking me to accept a public reception while passing through the town. Of course, I said I should be very pleased. The principal people took me round the sights of the town, and I saw the Jersey Lily Saloon, and split the cards in it for luck. One of their presents was a big brown bear. I did not know in the world what to do with such a beast, and, to my relief, it escaped from the station platform, and the express went off without it."

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Five Rupee Note.—The new five-rupee note will, it is expected, be issued this summer.

Bank of Bengal.—The rate of interest on demand loans remains at 5 per cent.

Opium Revenue.—To date the Opium revenue is Rs. 19,60,695 better than the official estimate.

Legislative Dept.—Mr. G. W. Marshall, of the Foreign Office, officiates as Registrar, Legislative Department, vice Mr. Wilson.

Plague Statistics.—There were 58 cases and 55 deaths from plague in Calcutta on Thursday, the 21st instant, when the total mortality from all causes was 115 i.e. 16 less than the average of the previous five years.

A Government Notification.—The following telegram from the D. A. G. Bengal, is published for information:—"His Majesty's Government have decided that Officers are not to be allowed to proceed to Japan or any other place at the seat of the War."

P. W. D. Postings.—Mr. E. W. S. Douglas, Executive Engineer, United Provinces, is permitted to retire from Government service, with effect from the 8th proximo. Mr. W. Algie, Executive Engineer, Burma, officiates as a Superintending Engineer, vice Mr. Orampton, on leave.

Bitten on her Cheek.—On Friday morning, before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Babu Shih Chunder Ghose, on behalf of a young woman of the town named Karmini living in Churebagan, applied for a process against one Dwari, on a charge of causing hurt, by biting her on the left cheek. The facts of the case as alleged was that she was living under the protection of the defendant. Lately he refused to pay her any money. She told him not to come to her house. This greatly annoyed him and he in a fit of anger, bit her on the cheek. The Court after examining the woman, ordered the issue of a summons against the defendant on a charge of causing hurt.

Suit against the Corporation.—At the High Court yesterday before Mr. Justice Stephen Babu Kahi Nath Mitter, Attorney-at-Law, applied for leave to file a plaint on behalf of E. H. Brand claiming Rs. 2500 as damages from the Corporation of Calcutta. He said that on the morning of the 26th January last the plaintiff was coming from Ballygunge to Kidd Street with his wife in a self-driving car. While near the Park Street they fell into a ditch, dug by the municipality, which was not sufficiently guarded. They sustained injuries and the plaintiff's wife had to go to hospital. The car was also seriously damaged. His Lordship admitted the plaint and ordered a written statement to be filed.

A Daring Dacoity at Channock.—On the night of Wednesday last a dacoity of a serious nature was committed in the house of Babu Kunjo Behari Ghose, a rich resident of Channock near Barrackpore. At mid-night when all the inmates of the house were fast asleep, a gang consisting of about twenty-five ruffians armed with deadly weapons forcibly broke open the front doors and entered the house. The miscreants tied up the master of the house and branded him with burning torches all over his body in order to secure the key of the iron safe in which almost all the valuables were kept. The poor gentleman being unable to bear the tortures handed them over the key and they then despoiled him with cash and jewellery worth about Rs. 5,000. Some of the dacoits were recognised by the inmates of the house and the Police are on the look out for them but have not as yet succeeded in arresting them.

A Fit Lesson To An Amorous Mohammedan.—On Friday before Syed Mohamed Khan Banadour, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore one Messer Shaik a young Mohammedan of Tullygunge was charged with criminal trespass for immoral purposes under very peculiar and amusing circumstances. The accused made an indecent proposal to a married Hindu girl of the locality, who communicated it to her husband and was advised by the latter to make a show of acquiescence in the overtures of the accused and invite him to attend at her house at a certain hour of the night; the husband in the mean time communicated with the Police and was anxiously awaiting his arrival. When the amorous Mohammedan made his appearance found he to his utter surprise and annoyance found himself within the clutches of the Police where he was handcuffed and sentenced him to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

An Atrocious Murder at Basirhat.—On the night of the 20th instant an atrocious cold blooded murder was perpetrated under very painful circumstances. One Issan Chander Dutta, a substantial man of village Baduria near Basirhat had grown very troublesome to his neighbours on account of his carrying on a series of most harassing law suits both civil and criminal against them. Some of them who had suffered the greatest at his hands conspired together to put an end to his mischievous career altogether by secretly murdering him. On the night of the occurrence they lay in wait for Issan on his way home from the Basirhat Court and while he was passing through a field, remote from any human habitation, all the ruffians suddenly fell upon him and hacked him into pieces with sharp weapons and availing themselves of the deep darkness of the night forthwith effected a speedy retreat for their respective homes. The local police are attempting to arrest the culprits who have absconded.

The Hill Section of the Assam-Bengal Railway between Badarpur and Lumding has, just within two months of its having been formally opened for public traffic by His Excellency the Viceroy, been visited by rather serious slips and washouts which have caused interruption to the traffic, and augurs badly for the maintenance of the section during the rains.

Two attempts have been made in Burma to wreck trains, one on the 11th instant on the Mandalay-Kunlong Railway, where a large boulder was placed on the line between the first and second reversing stations on the ghat to Maymyo. The obstruction was seen and removed by the permanent way men. The other was on the Mu Valley Railway on the 12th, where sleepers were placed on the line near Gydoung, with which an engine came into contact without much damage being done.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 19.
The King and Queen have returned to England.

London, April 20.

The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Vienna this evening on a visit to the Emperor. They were cordially welcomed and drove to the Hofburg through cheering crowds.

Admiral Alexeief has resigned because he found himself practically superseded except in civil affairs; moreover the appointment of Admiral Skrydloff, who is notoriously hostile to Admiral Alexeief, was made without consulting him.

London, April 21.

Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that General Kuropatkin has now 300,000 troops at his disposal, and this is deemed sufficient at present. The further despatch of troops has been suspended. Three officers and fifty-five men perished in the Russian destroyer Pzestraslori in the attack at Port Arthur on the 14th instant.

General Kuropatkin telegraphs that all is quite on the Yalu. The Japanese are increasing and concentrating at Wiju, and spreading northwards along the Yalu and entrenching their positions. The lights of transports anchored on the horizon are observed off Ching-taitse, west of Tatsungku.

It is not officially admitted at St. Petersburg that Admiral Alexeief has resigned, and it is thought that a way may be found to smooth matters temporarily.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent says that the War Office there is flooded with thousands of applications of men of every age and condition to go to the front. Time-expired soldiers are re-enlisting, and half a million volunteers are immediately available in case of emergency.

Reuter wires from Seoul that seventy of the American Legation guards have been ordered to proceed to Manila owing to the impossibility of accommodating them at Seoul and the Japanese garrison being sufficient to quell the disturbance.

London, April 22.

A battle is reported as having taken place at Wiju but there are no details.—"Englishman."

Officers are pouring in at Tokio for service. Many of them are written in blood thus reviving the old Samurai custom.—"Englishman."

General Kuropatkin telegraphs that the two Japanese officers who were captured disguised as lamas in an attempt to blow up the bridge over the river Monni on 18th instant were court-martialled at Harbin and sentenced to be hanged; but in view of their rank the general had them shot after rejecting their petition to spare their lives. Their names were Steewo Jukoka and Teiska Oki.

GENERAL.

London, April 19.

At the inquest on those lost in the submarine boat, Captain Bacon said that the bodies were found at their posts. The crew were stunned by the collision, otherwise they would have been able to stop the leak and come to the surface.

Sir Henry Thompson, the celebrated Surgeon.

Earl Percy, replying to a question in the Commons said that the agreements between Britain and Siam, relative to the Siamese dependencies in the Malay Peninsula, are strictly confidential and it was not intended to publish them in deference to the wish of the Siamese Government.

London, April 20.

The increase of tea duty is absolutely unexpected. It is difficult yet to estimate the full effect, but the trade expresses great indignation.

In the Commons Mr. Austen Chamberlain said that the recent clearance of tea were not sufficiently large to affect the estimated yield of the duty, the resolution sanctioning which continues the duty till 1905 in order to prevent August merchants delaying the clearance of tea from bond in anticipation of the next Budget.

He hoped that as a result of the recent exertions the Navy estimates would not need to grow in the next few years as in the past. He hoped also that while the modification in our Army system would increase the efficiency of the Army it would reduce the expenditure.

Mr. Chamberlain in a brief speech argued that those who objected to the increase in the tea duty on the ground that it would injure India and Ceylon ought to have moved a preference amendment.

The Commons have adopted a resolution in favour of the increased duty on tea after an amendment by Mr. T. Lough in favour of a sixpenny duty had been rejected by 245 against 193.

The tobacco increased duty was adopted by 200 against 106.

The papers generally receive the Budget most favourably, but the Conservative organs simultaneously insist upon the urgent necessity of reducing the national expenditure especially in view of the income tax.

The "Daily News" vehemently denounces the increase of duty on tea.

The Lords have adopted a resolution authorising the Tibet Expedition.

Lord Lansdowne stated that Lord Curzon had acted loyally in accordance with the views of the Imperial Government. The obstacles in the way of the Mission had been surmounted by the energy and endurance of the troops. Government accepted with the utmost sincerity the assurances of Russia but had to consider not only the attitude of Russia to Tibet but of Tibet to Russia.

The Kaiser has landed at Sicily.

London, April 21.

The Hungarian strikers have been released and the administration of the state railway is negotiating with them.

The Toronto fire has been extinguished; 130 buildings have been destroyed and the loss is estimated at thirteen millions of dollars.

Despite the resolute opposition of Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman the Licensing Bill passed the first reading in the Commons by 314 votes against 147.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

In pursuance of the Turco Bulgarian agreement of the 9th inst, 495 Bulgarian prisoners at Salonika have been released. 811 others died in prison.

The British Cotton Growing Association has decided to ask for a Royal Charter and it is understood that the Colonial Office approves the idea provided that the profits for the first seven years are wholly devoted to extending operations.

A Royal Commission has been appointed to enquire into the disorders in the Church of England. The Commission includes Sir M. Hicks Beach as Chairman, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Oxford, Sir Francis Jouné and Sir Edward Clarke.

Advices from Melbourne state that the Federal Government has resigned, the Labourites having carried an amendment in the House, bringing state employees within the scope of the Arbitration Bill.

The India three per cent loan of two and a-half millions has been issued at a minimum price of 494 10s. for new railways and the redemption of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway debentures.

London, April 22.

The Commons have adopted the increase in the income-tax by 214 against 16.

Major Burt, who was killed in a carriage accident in Piccadilly on 19th instant, belonged to the Second Life Guards.

The success of the three per cent. Indian loan of two and a half millions appears assured, as it was immediately quoted at 1½ per cent, a contrast to the failure in 1901.

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The Commons have adopted the increase in the Income Tax by 214 votes against 16.

Major Burt, who was killed in a carriage accident in Piccadilly on the 19th instant, belonged to the Second Life Guards.

It is reported in Paris that negotiations are proceeding with a view to a large Russian loan, possibly 32 millions sterling.

The Licensing Bill has caused a great outcry. The temperance party is strongly hostile.—"Englishman."

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Colombo, April 20.

It is expected that the first important fighting will take place in June.

The cruisers "Smolensk" and "Orel" have been ordered to prepare for work outside the Black Sea.

The hundred Caucasus convicts have arrived at Harbin for service, expiating crimes similar to the force organising Sakhalen.

Russia has ordered 200 Belgian steel-cased carriages for the transport of troops.

The "Chronicle's" Shanghai correspondent reports that the Japanese campaign has changed owing to the discovery of mines where it was originally intended to land troops.

The Russians are paying heavily for information.

A Japanese has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for supplying information regarding Yokohama.

The Tsar presents the War fund with three years' revenue from his own estates.

Australian telegrams to London, dated April 4th, state that the "Times" correspondent at Korea, who has been visiting the Japanese base, reports that General Auroki's army is able to force the Russian position on the Yalu, but await the second mobilisation before striking, and are preparing for an advance along three roads.

The Russian positions on the Yalu cover 150 miles.

The Chinese estimate that there are 220,000 troops already in Manchuria.

The Russians abandoned 24 guns when evacuating Wiju and thence were transferred across the river.

The Russians have captured two spies at Neuchwang with plans of the fortifications.

The naval reservists at Sebastopol are being mobilised.

The international protest before the Chemulpho fight was received five minutes before the action. Admiral Urius has not replied owing to the Russians fighting outside the harbour.

The "Chronicle" reports that there is a moat with barbed wire defences two miles north of Port Arthur.

Japan has engaged twenty Canadians for the Medical and Bearers corps having South African experience.

The "Standard" states that the Empress of Japan has presented the Russian wounded at Chemulpho with artificial eyes and limbs.

PLAGUE STATISTIC.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, April 22.

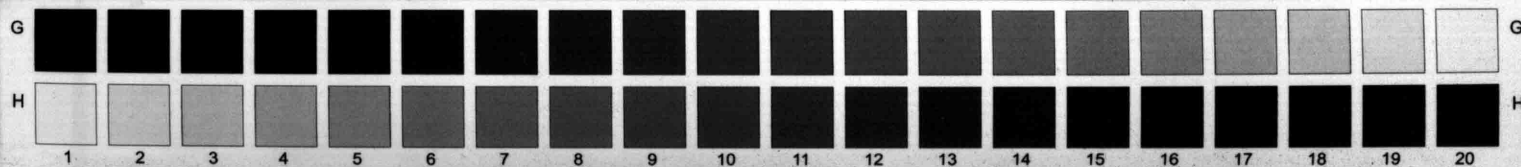
There were 46,812 deaths from plague last week against 47,759 in the previous seven days. Of this large total 26,961 deaths occurred in the Punjab; the Shahpur, Jullundur, Gurdaspur, Simla, Hoshiarpur and Gujrat districts alone contributing 15,000 of the mortality. There were 6,107 deaths in the United Provinces, 5,128 in Bombay, 1,942 in Bengal and about 1,000 each in Central India, Rajputana and Kashmir respectively.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT RANGOON.

190 HOUSES BURNED DOWN.

Rangoon, April 22.

A destructive fire took place here last night in the Lashadow quarter, destroying 190 houses, valued at five lakhs of rupees, one-third of which was covered by insurance. The fire started at midnight and lasted six hours. The fire brigade engines had a rough time of it as there was a very strong wind blowing at the time. Some of the celebrated Burmese gold and silversmiths and wood carvers, whose artistic creations are well known to India after they were displayed at the Delhi Art Exhibition held last year, have suffered heavily and there are a number of sufferers that have been burnt out of house and home.



Matters Commercial.

The Assam Government have granted a Calcutta Syndicate a prospecting license for oil, covering some 400 square miles in the Cachar district.

Information regarding the Indian Tassar silk industry has also been asked of the Imperial Institute by London firms interested in the silk trade.

An American is said to have invented a mechanical silkworm. He claims that the machine will perform all the work of a silk worm at small cost.

The mineral resources of the Likkim state are not likely to attract European capital or enterprise, as applications already made to mining leases or rights have not been successful.

Large samples of ginned and unginned Indian cotton and cotton seed are being supplied to the Indian Section of the Imperial Institute from this country to meet requisitions from manufacturers at Home.

"Apropos" of Bengal farms it is intended during the next year or two to get rid by sale of the Sibpur farm in Howrah, which has not been a success owing to its soil—and start a new farm to be located in one of the Calcutta suburbs and make it the farm for the Presidency Division.

Indian decorative tiles are being inquired for at Home at the Indian section of the Imperial Institute, while information is also wanted as to shippers of hard India steatite. An Ottawa firm is also an applicant for names of Indian tea traders with a view to arranging for direct supply of tea from this country.

The special experiments which are being made to solve the question of the alleged deterioration in jute cultivation in Bengal are at present confined to Jamalpur in Mymensingh, Jalpaiguri and Faridpur, but it would be interesting to have the results published for the benefit of the jute trade.

In the Thakymyo and Minbu districts of Burma native prospectors have taken up the exploration of the soap-stone bearing tracts of these districts. It is a new venture in mineral exploitation in that Province and it is possible that Burma soap-stone may turn out a profitable business if it can be found in quantity.

Among new inventions filed at the Government Patents Bureau in Calcutta is one for "Treating seeds to facilitate germination," "treating seeds to facilitate germination." The invention has come at an opportune time and will, we suppose, be tested at the Government Agricultural Station when it is tried there.

The Imperial Government have decided that public revenues are to bear the cost of the upkeep of the Victoria Memorial, its grounds, and the extension of some Rs. 32,000 per annum, as well as the expenditure that will be necessary for putting in order the site that will be made available after the demolition of the Presidency Jail.

Dealers in Indian silks and colored earth in this country may be interested to learn that enquiries have been made of the Indian section of the Imperial Institute by London firms of the sources of direct supply. We should fancy that there are possibilities of a big business in this particular line and would advise those concerned to communicate with the Institute authorities at Home.

The large increase of some 36,000 acres in tobacco cultivation in Bengal in 1903-04, as compared with the preceding year has occurred mainly in the districts of Purnea, Cuttack, Monghyr, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri, Jessore and Nuddea, where the people are paying more attention to the crop, it being a profitable one to grow, the demand for home-grown tobacco having increased in the Province.

Those engaged in the mica industry in this country may be interested to learn that there is a growing demand for mica in the Australian Commonwealth, especially industries connected with electricity. Prices are high and we should fancy that the Commonwealth would be a good customer for the Indian product, the working and output of which is increasing steadily yearly.

Gold-dredging operations are also about to be undertaken in Assam, where it is believed the rivers of the Lakhimpur district offer possibilities which are worth exploiting. The district authorities have granted a license to the purpose. At the end of last year there were some three score of applications for mining leases in Hazaribagh under consideration of the District authorities, of which a large number had been granted.

We are to have a new experimental farm at Cuttack where some 70 acres of land are being acquired for the purpose within easy reach of the Cuttack Railway Station. In addition to the Cuttack farm and the existing farms at Dumraon, Chhatgong, Sibpur, Bardwan, and Sipur, it is intended in due course to provide similar farms at or near the Head quarters of the Bhagalpur, Patna, Rajshahi, Dacca and Ranchi Divisions, each farm to be of some 70 acres.

The final report on the sugarcane crop of the North-West Frontier Province for the current season (1903-04) put the total output of "gur" or molasses at 39,469 tons, an increase of 7,000 tons, over the output of the previous year. There are no sugar refining industries in the Province, but "gur" is largely exported down country. The counter-vailing duties on foreign sugar have had no effect on the "gur" trade of the Province.

An important series of experiments have been carried out by the German Naval Department at Dantzg Bay. The object in view was to ascertain the relation of depth of water to speed. Torpedo boats were used for the purpose. Up to 12 knots, depth exercises had no influence on speed, but from 15 to 20 knots, obstruction in shallow water proportionately to speed diminished. At about two fathoms' depth, about twice as much engine power was required as in deep water. The experiments are to be repeated with ships of larger size.

The Bengal Government's grant towards agricultural and industrial improvements during 1904-05 are:—Rs. 84,500 on agricultural experiments and Rs. 6,500 on silk experiments. From the former sum half a lakh will go for cattle-breeding at Pusa; Rs. 7,000 represent the grant to the Indian Tea Association for their research work, while Rs. 4,300 are to be devoted to experimental crop-cuttings, a useful form of experiment. The balance we suppose will be utilised for the jute and other experiments in progress. The silk grant will be expended at Berhampore and Rampur-Boalia where the experiments include the rearing of cocoons and the selection of seed.

According to the statistics published in the "Reichsanzeiger" the quantity of raw sugar produced in Germany during the period from 1st September 1903, to 28th February last, being the six months of the 1903-04 sugar campaign, was 1,625,299 metric tons, as compared with 1,461,944 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1902-03. The quantity of refined sugar produced decreased from 777,763 metric tons during the six months September 1902, to February 1903 to 753,477 metric tons during the six months September 1903, to February, 1904. The total quantity of beets used during the first half of the present campaign was 12,706,527 metric tons, as compared with 11,255,958 metric tons during the corresponding months of 1902-03.

BEAST AND MAN IN INDIA.

In the "Indian Magazine and Review," Sir George Birdwood publishes a trenchant criticism on Mr. J. L. Kipling's book. Sir George writes:—

Delightful as this book is in the originality and the literary and artistic treatment of its primary text, the familiar beasts of India, it is the most painful I have ever read, in relation to its secondary subject, or man, that is, the Hindus, and Mahomedans, in India. Almost every chapter contains an indictment against them of apparently the most execrating cruelty toward the lower animals; until one is made to feel of mankind in general that Providence has indeed put a monstrous beast to be the "Lord of Beasts"; and baseless, as these charges are, on examination found to be, and heedlessly made, yet because of Mr. Kipling's deep sympathy with the sufferers, for which much may be forgiven him, and the power of his Doric English, there can be no doubt of the being calculated to incite the bitterest and widest prejudice against the people of India. The error is in impression conveyed is probably not less unjust toward the author himself than to our Hindu and Mahomedan fellow subjects, who are also men of like passions and infirmities with ourselves; for, after all, it is the "Introduction" to the book which gives point and venom to these libels; and but for its intrusive infection they might have been taken as part and parcel of the indiscriminate carping and cavilling that seems to be a not altogether unnamable mannerism with Mr. John Lockwood Kipling; and against which I certainly should not have cried out to any reader of his "Caveto" be thy counsellor."

Of the specific indictments of British cruelty the two worst are that "turkeys are left to lead to death half-a-day by native servants with intent to bleach the flesh," and that goats are flayed alive "in the belief that the skins thus prepared have a better quality." All I can say is that in a very extensive and officially responsible observation of every denomination of native domestic, service, and industry and trade in Western India, I never met with the practice of any such cruel cruelties as these. But admitting the truth of these particular instances, on the face of it the first is of European introduction, and is to be compared with other of our conventionalised enigmities, such as bleeding calves to death for white veal, and skinning and crimping fish alive and throwing crabs and lobsters alive into boiling hot water, and slow stewing living geese before a charcoal fire to produce in them the delectable delicacy "foie gras," or "fatty degeneration of the liver." As for the flaying alive of goats, something of that sort is done in Persia and Turkey, and very probably has passed into Upper India. But in Europe cats are skinned alive in identically the same belief; and the very day that I first read Mr. Kipling's book, the public announcement was made of the organisation in Washington state of "The Consolidated Black Cat Company" for the propagation of the famous "Dutch breed" of black cats on Paget Sound for their fur. Now is not this the most directest cruelty that could ever have entered into the minds of men to conceive. To take a poor dumb creature that, though not less than six thousands of years of domestication, has become well nigh human and breed it in millions to skin alive in millions, for the mere winter wear, throughout America and Europe, of professing Christian ladies and gentlemen who may happen for the time, to be in more or less mitigated family mourning? It is terrible enough to manufacture life to slay it again for human food, as we do with sheep and oxen, and, in yet ghastlier wise, at Chicago with pigs; but to manufacture it wholesale, and for needless slaughter, as is purposed in the case of these great-eyed black Dutch cats, so endeared to us all by Henriette Ronner's loving pictures of them surely this is a refinement of aggravated cruelty that can only be characterised as hellish."

Then take our English rabbit coursing, as—according to the description of Colonel Coulson in the "Standard" of the 8th of this month, practised at Ryeon Willows, near the well-known Tyneside village of Blaydon and our reckless massacres of adult seals in Behring Straits,—with the abandonment of their helpless "pups" to certain death by starvation and the wanton cruelties of our transatlantic cattle trade. Yet, even from so wide and revolting an induction as this, would a Hindoo or Mahomedan writer be justified in traducing the humanity of "man in England? The truth is, all such comparisons are as misleading as they are odious and should never be drawn by a writer or at least a popular writer against any other nationality than his own. In his chapter on Dogs, Foxes, and Jackals," Mr. Kipling says that neither by Hindoo nor Mahomedan writers is ever a kindly word said of the dog. In refutation of this preposterous charge it is only necessary to refer to the touching story, at the close of the Mahabharata of Yudhishthira, who, at the very gate of heaven, refused to enter unless his faithful dog might bear him

company. I have enlarged on this classical illustration of the innate humanity of the Hindoos towards the lower creation, in a letter published in the St. James's Gazette of the 2nd inst., and the reply given to me the next day by the reviewer of Mr. Kipling's book in that journal was that Yudhishthira and his dog are in ancient history. This is also Mr. Kipling's anticipatory reply. Nothing could be more perversely untrue. The Mahabharata and the Ramayana are always and everywhere with the people of India, both in the original and translated into every language of the vast and teeming peninsula. Everyday episodes from them are published from the native press; and every night they are sung in town and country wherever the Hindoo people are gathered joyously together. In Bombay, the bazar, was always full of brightly coloured paintings of them; and over and over again I used to find among these pictures the deathless subject of Yudhishthira and his dog.

RUSSIAN OFFICERS.

There are no soldiers in the world who get a finer training for the rough game of war than the Czar's officers who are scattered over thousands of lonely outposts throughout Russian Asia, Siberia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Manchuria are four vast training grounds for the Czar's legions. The number of garrisons, large and small, distributed over those immense territories runs well into the thousands. At some important points, like Irkutsk, Khiva, Blagovestchenk, Petrovsk, Harbin, and Askabad, large bodies of troops are kept, and the life of the officers and men is much like that of soldiers in other military posts, for garrison life is practically the same everywhere. It is at the small posts, where a couple of officers and fifty or a hundred men are stationed that adventures occur almost as regularly as the rising and the setting of the sun; and it is there that the finest training is gained.

Imagine a remote outpost in the centre of a desolate steppe, where the monotony of rock and sand is unbroken for several days' journey, save by the skeletons of horses, camels, and men who have perished in trying to cross it; or in the midst of a dense forest thickly clad in ice and snow for the greater part of the year, and haunted by flocks of ravenous wolves and still fiercer men—convicts escaped from the lead mines, who would dare any danger and commit any crime rather than return to the chain gang and the knout. It is the sort of the officers at the outpost to lead the wolves, though the quarry, numerous and starved, is more terrible than the fiercest Bengal tiger. It is their duty to track down the escaped convicts, and their pride to try to capture them single-handed without the help of their men.

The lonely, adventurous life they lead makes daredevils of even the quietest of these men. I knew a lieutenant who commanded at a remote post on the banks of the Amur. He was a student at the military academy with me, and a quieter, more studious fellow could hardly be imagined. His nose was always in his books, and he could seldom be induced to join in the field sports and athletic exercises in which the rest of us delighted.

Years afterwards I visited him at his outpost and found him a changed man. The dreamy look had gone from his face; he had the eye of a leader of men, the eye of the man who had looked death in the face a hundred times without flinching. There were hardly a dozen books in his quarters, but there were plenty of guns, saddles, fishing rods, and hunting knives.

THE CALL OF THE WILD.

After dinner, as we sat over our cigars and vodka, we heard the howling of a great pack of wolves in the forest, which straggled to within half a mile of the post. My host had been interested in my light chatter about old friends in St. Petersburg and Moscow, but when he heard the wolves he became strangely excited and could hardly listen to what I was saying. At last he rose, and said, "It's no good, my friend; I cannot resist. I must go to them!" and he shouted to his servant to harness the dogs to his sleigh.

"Are you mad?" I cried. "Surely you are not going out to the wolves in the forest?" "I can't help it," he replied in the most matter-of-fact tone. "Whenever I hear them howling it seems to me a challenge, and every nerve in my body is on edge to respond. I have winter they killed my best sergeant, and since then I have gone out to kill a few of them whenever I have heard them howling like this at night. Pardon my rudeness in leaving you. I will be back in a short time—possibly. If you want anything, ring for Ivan."

Imagine the madness of it. Of course, I couldn't let him go alone; so I picked out a rifle and a revolver from his armory and insisted on taking my place in the sleigh beside him. He drove over the snow-clad meadows to within a hundred yards of the outer edge of the forest. Then he pulled up the trembling dogs and waited. Pretty soon we saw dozens of shadowy gray forms skulking out from the blackness of the trees on to the moon-lit snow. We fired at them, and almost before the reports of our rifles had died away the whole pack was upon us.

Quick as lightning, my friend dropped his gun, shook out the reins, and flopped the dogs until they literally flew towards home, fear spurring them, far more than the whip. The foremost wolves of the pack were within a few feet of the rear of the sleigh, and although we shot them down as fast as we could fire our rifles, the rest were not halted by the massacre. They gained on us rapidly and as we neared the fort they were swarming all around the sleigh, and had actually pulled down one of the leading dogs. But a crowd of soldiers rushed out with torches and rifles and fired a volley which put them to flight just in time to save our lives.

"Does your master often do this?" I asked my friend's servant. "Yes, sir," he replied. "He generally goes out whenever he hears the wolves at night. Look here, sir!" And he opened a cupboard and showed me rows upon rows of wolves' tails. There were sixty-eight of them. "He killed all these this winter," the servant added.

The Rana of Koti, who owns most of the outlying and round Simla, arrived at the station on Thursday in connection with the proposed transfer of the Mashora and Mahasu suburbs to the Government of India for inclusion within the Simla station limits.

LOCUSTS AT MATHERAN.

Matheran has also had its share of the locusts plague, and during the last six months has suffered more or less severely from these destructive pests. They have denuded the hill of all verdure, as far as what suited their taste, there being some trees the foliage of which they will not touch. They come along in immense flights, extending for miles and miles, making a great whirring noise as they move along, and casting a ruddy glow over the space covered in their flight. Nothing but leafless trees, standing stark against the sky is the aftermath of a visitation from the voracious insects. The hillside has been left practically black and brown, except for a few green spots here and there like oases in a desert. There has been an appreciable absence of locusts here for the last few days, and from all accounts they appear to have been driven by the recent strong winds further south into the Konkan. The latest news is that they are steadily coming in large swarms into Secunderabad.

THE MADRAS HIGH COURT.

In connection with the vacancies occurring in the Madras High Court to two Judges and two Law Officers of the Crown going on leave, the "Madras Mail" understands that no acting appointment will be made in the case of the Chief Justice, because the Hon'ble Sir Arnold White is only going Home for the Midsummer Vacation. It is not certain whether the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Benson will be able to take furlough in continuation of the vacation, and so nothing has yet been settled about appointing an acting successor. If Mr. Justice Benson has to return after the vacation and then take furlough, an acting appointment at this stage would be unnecessary. Nothing, also, has been decided about the appointment of an acting Advocate General in the room of the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Wallis, who is proceeding on leave. With respect to the Public Prosecution, the announcement that the Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankaran Nair would act for Mr. E. B. Powell should have appeared in the last "Gazette," but was postponed in order to allow Mr. Sankaran Nair to take part as a non-official member in the recent debates at the recent Legislative Council.

RICE HUSK ASH AS MANURE.

The utility of rice husk ash as a manure is reported upon in Commercial Circular No. 2 of 1904 by Mr. D. Hooper, the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India. This waste product has been much neglected, and in and about Rangoon it has been principally utilised to raise low-lying land. A chemical analysis proves it to be a manure which would be of service to the soil of Burma. The fertilising constituents are not very largely represented in the analysis, but comparing the composition with that of rice soils of Burma, published by Dr. R. Romanis, the return of the ash to the land would be a distinct improvement, as these soils contain on an average .08 per cent. of lime, 15 per cent. of potash, and 11 per cent. of phosphoric acid. The silicious ash might also be employed in manufacturing mortars and cements by mixing it with lime in suitable proportions. A further use suggests itself as a polishing or abrading material, since it is known that silicious substances like the horsetail and the leaves of certain fig trees are used for these purposes in many parts of the world.

THE CASE AGAINST THE "TIMES" OF ASSAM.

This case came on for final hearing before the second E. A. C. on Monday last. On behalf of the prosecution, the complainant was examined as a formal affair, when a charge was drawn up against the accused who pleaded not guilty, but admitted publication. The Inspector of police who investigated the case against the complainant was then examined on behalf of the defence. Inspector Sarfaty said that he had furnished the information to the accused as to the particulars of the charge against the complainant and that the paragraph complained of contained a fair report of what he had stated to the accused. The case for the defence was then argued by Mr. Hadow who submitted that in the face of the judgment of the Judge of the A. V. D. as to the law on the subject, he was prepared to admit that his client was technically guilty, but he said that considering the fact that the accused had obtained his information from the best source available and in view of what transpired from the evidence in the cases and the judgment of the High Court in the revision petition filed by the complainant when further inquiry was ordered by the Deputy Commissioner after the discharge in the first case tried by Mr. Cornes, his client was entitled to be very leniently dealt with. On behalf of the prosecution it was urged that the investigating police officer could not be considered a very safe source of information to act upon in a pending case, and specially when a better source was available in the proceedings that had already taken place in the court. It was also pointed out that neither the judgment of the High Court nor anything that transpired in the evidence recorded in court could be held as an extenuation of the accused's guilt, for it was not pretended that the accused had consulted either of these sources of information. The defence tendered as evidence the records of the cases against the complainant, but it was contended by the prosecution that these records would be perfectly irrelevant for the purpose of measuring the value of the evidence as to the guilt or otherwise of the complainant and that the judgments of the courts who tried the case, were also irrelevant. The Court passed judgment on Wednesday in which it was pleased to accept the view of the case as put by Mr. Hadow, and finding the accused guilty the Magistrate thought that the ends of justice would be met by a fine of Rs. 10. On the basis apparently of the records in the previous cases, the learned Magistrate thought the circumstances were suspicious against the complainant and that though the senior E. A. C. had declared the case tried by him as false and the other judicial officers could not rely upon the evidence for the prosecution, the accused was entitled to get the benefit of a reconsideration of the evidence in the former records. The learned Magistrate's view of the law has been put to the test by the complainant who has, we are informed, filed a suit for Rs. 1,500 by way of damages, before the Sub-Judge of Dibrugarh.—"Citizen."

COMPLAINT AGAINST N. W. RAILWAY.

A correspondent writes to the "Tribune" from Sealkote:—We the undersigned took this date the 15th April, 1904, our seats in the Inter-class compartment (of carriage No. 672)

adjoining the compartment meant for Europeans and Eurasians; as we were bound for different stations on Gujranwalla side, and were to start from Lahore by the 11 Up Passenger. As all the Inter-class compartments were quite full and allowed of no more passengers' admission—there being already about fifteen passengers in each compartment—two young men who looked to be gentlemen took their seats in the Europeans compartment, there being no passenger at all in the room at the time probably after obtaining permission of some Railway employee. A few minutes after two policemen were seen near the Europeans' compartment and commenced remonstrating and rebuking the two young men referred to. The young men being ordered to get out of the room at once by the policemen, they prayed that they might be shown whereto to get in. There were used no objectionable words at all by the young men, nor they in any way behaved unbecomingly, but they were forcibly dragged out (although they were already obeying the policemen's orders) and were made an example of, for no fault of theirs at all. Meanwhile a Christian Railway employee joined the policemen and they took away the young men to the Station Master's Office where a Police Officer was also present. We could not follow them as the train was about to start, but all we could ascertain about the men, was that they were ordered off by the Police Officer (a European or a Eurasian) to the Police Station where they were taken to by the very policemen. We were not aware of what followed this, because the train started and we left. As all of us badly felt for the gentlemen who were not only dragged out of the carriage and beaten by the policemen, but were not listened to and sent off to the Police Station evidently to undergo a more severe punishment for no fault, we could not help pitying their sad condition. Under these circumstances we are compelled by our sense of duty to refer the real history of the case to the Traffic Superintendent and the Editor of the "Tribune" for rendering necessary help to the young men, who might else meet a worse fate. We are all prepared to bear testimony to the above facts, on oath.

SEA SERPENT HISTORY.

Prof. Charles L. Edwards of Trinity College told the Hartford Scientific Society recently a lot about the sea serpent and had shown on a screen pictures of the monsters calculated to scare an innocent youngster out of a year's growth. Unfortunately, none of the pictures was an actual photograph, but the lecturer seemed to tend to the belief that there was something doing in the monster line, and the Rev. James Goodwin, the president of the society, allowed at the close of the lecture that he for one believed more in the thing than he had before. As to how great that previous belief had been he did not say.

Professor Edwards in the first part of his lecture had thrown on the screen pictures of sea monsters as represented in years past. He explained in his talk that while he spoke of "sea serpent," the so-called and oft-repeated sea serpent could not be a big snake, but some other kind of a monster (if it was anything.) As back as far as Job mention is made of a great leviathan, and accounts of some great things are found in all early histories. One myth seems to have come from a sperm whale, and another from the squid. Even the Indians had a belief in a monster serpent, and though one lived in the great lakes and broke up the ice in the winter when it became irritated.

Professor Edwards gave a long list of dates when the great sea serpent has been reported, and related some of the circumstances. They stretch from 1639 down into 1903. A bishop, Commodore Preble, crews of British warships, and many persons have made the reports. A noted appearance was at Gloucester and Nahant, Mass., in 1817, when hundreds of reputable citizens saw something and testified to it. It is estimated that from 600 to 700 persons saw it, and people even drove along the beach in crowds, keeping up with it as it swam along off the shore. Professor Edwards said there was no doubt that something was seen at that time.

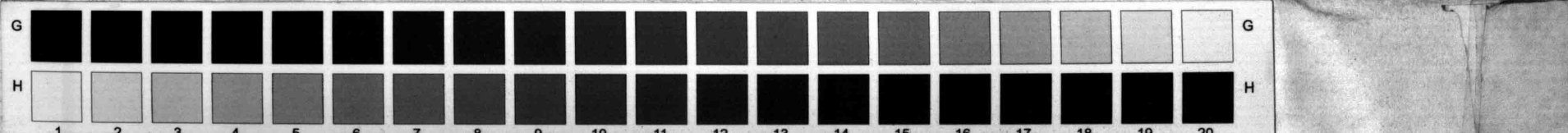
Another case was in 1848, when the whole crew of a British warship saw one and reported a sober and scientific account of it. The neighborhood of Nahant, Gloucester, and Swampscot seems to be the most favored, for several reports from each have been made.

In 1899, 300 passengers of the steamer New England declared that when two days out of Boston they saw the sea serpent, describing it as forty to fifty feet long, eight feet in diameter, and snorting out spray. The latest report of it was May 30, 1903. It is noteworthy said Professor Edwards, that the thing has been reported nearly always in the summer or fall, and practically always in the northern waters, one year between Halifax and Gloucester the next time, off Norway, perhaps.

It is always described as black or brownish, with eyes in the upper part of the head, swimming at a speed of five or six knots, carrying its head out of water, generally with a mane, and proceeding with a humping motion like a caterpillar. A curious appearance was one reported in 1898 and 1899 in a Swedish lake, where, it was declared, a huge animal had been seen a number of times and had been watched through glasses for long periods. Finally, a newspaper sent an eminent naturalist to investigate, and he reported as his conclusion that several monsters, from six to forty-five feet long, had certainly been seen in the lake.

Professor Edwards said that probably in all the many cases reported something had been seen, for it is impossible to believe that all these people were liars. The universal declaration that the thing proceeded with an undulating motion does away with the theory of its actually being a big snake. He showed that the stories might arise from the appearance of a manatee, a big stingray, a gigantic squid (one was caught with arms and body 100 feet long), a basking shark, whales or school of porpoises. A few years ago what was called the Florida monster was found near St. Augustine, with arms nearly 100 feet long. The basking shark grows to forty feet long certainly. There is no known limit to the growth of fishes, and Professor Edwards said there was no reason why enormous ones might not be living somewhere at the bottom of the sea.

It was even possible that some monster of the ages past had been left over to amaze us. The facts that exploring expeditions had never found the great sea serpent and that no remains of anything of the kind had even been washed ashore were worthy of note at the same time.—"Hartford Courant."



MR. DADABHAI NAROJI ON THE MIS-RULE OF INDIA.

Mr. Dadabhai Naroji delivered a lecture on the Mis-rule of India at the Co-operative Societies' Hall, Parish Lane, Penge, to an appreciative audience, under the presidency of Mr. B. Webb, before the mail left.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Naroji in a brief speech.

Mr. Dadabhai Naroji, in a few preliminary observations, warned his audience not to suppose that he meant that the connexion of England and India had not been any good at all or that he had anything to say against any individual officer; it was the evil system of government of which he complained. If that system had been what it ought to have been, and according to the promise of English legislation and rulers, there would have been no occasion for complaint at all; but, whilst nearly the whole cost of the South African war, amounting to something like £300,000,000 and the entire annual cost of the Colonial Office, amounting to £100,000,000 a year, were taken from the British taxpayer, the cost of the India Office, amounting to £500,000 a year, was taken from India. Was this comparison of treatment fair to India? Since the time of the Company, down to the present day, England had been carrying away the wealth of India, ever increasingly and unceasingly. But he did not want to give his own arguments and evidence; he wanted to lay before them the evidence of Englishmen who had studied the subject, honestly and carefully and some of whom had occupied high positions in India as Judges officers or merchants. During the time of the Company in India the British people were Protectionist to the bone, and unfortunately it was protection against India. They passed acts one after another like that of 1700, the preamble of which declared that the continuation of the trade with the East Indies in the same manner and proportion as far as the two previous years must inevitably be to the great detriment of this kingdom, and the provisions of which imposed regulations to restrict the trade, to prevent Indian goods from coming to England. The Act of 1720 prohibited the use and wear of all printed satin or dyed calicoes from India under a penalty of £5. Such was the connection between England and India from the very beginning. Then when England acquired her first political power in the middle of the eighteenth century this was the kind of conduct the English displayed, according to despatches from the Court of Directors to the Governor-General and vice versa: "The conduct of our administration is notoriously corrupt, and mainly venal throughout every department. We think the vast fortunes acquired in the inland trade have been obtained by the most tyrannical and oppressive conduct that was ever known in any age of country. And Macaulay said: "The relations between the Bengalee and the English were such that the English were like wolves and the Bengalee like sheep, and the English were like demons and the Bengalee like men." Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, who was acting Governor for some time, soon after he wrote his celebrated minute of 1777, put the whole thing in a nutshell. He said: "Whatever allowances we make for the increasing indus-try of the subject of the State, there is reason to conclude that the benefits are more than counterbalanced by evils inseparable from a system of remote foreign dominion. Here he hit the nail on the head. The Companies are merchants as well as sovereigns of the country, in the former capacity they engross its trade, while in the latter they appropriate the revenues." Then Sir Thomas Munro, a very high official Governor of Madras, said: "But even if we could be secured against any internal commotion and could maintain the country quietly in subjection, I doubt much if the condition of the people would be better than under their Native Princes. . . . The consequence, therefore, of the conquest of India by the British arms would be, in place of raising, to debase the whole people. There is perhaps no example of any request in which the Natives have been so completely excluded from all share of the government of their country as British India." Thus they had here the cause and the remedy." Sir John Malcolm, said: "If the plans (of spreading instruction) are not associated with the creation of duties that will employ the minds that we enlighten, we shall only prepare elements that will hasten the destruction of our Empire. The moral evil to us does not stand alone; it carries with it its nemesis, the seeds of the destruction of the Empire itself." Sir Thomas Munro again said: "It would be more desirable that we should be expelled from the country altogether than that the result of our system of government should be such an abasement of a whole people." In 1830 consideration was given to the matter by the Legislature, and in the Act of 1833 there was this one important clause with reference to India: "No Natives of the said territories, nor any natural-born subject of his Majesty, resident therein, shall by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent colour or any of them be disabled from holding any place, office or employment, under the said Company," Mr. Naroji remarked that he would make no comment upon this, he would read the words of a great Englishman Macaulay who would explain the clause in more forcible eloquence and noble language than he could ever aspire to. Macaulay said: "I allude to that wise, that benevolent, that noble cause which enacts that no native of our Indian Empire shall, by reason of his colour his descent or his religion be incapable of holding office. At the risk of being called by that nickname which is regarded as the most opprobrious of all nicknames—namely, that of a 'half-breed'—I must say that the risk of being called a philosopher—I must say that to the last day of my life I shall be proud of having been one of those who assisted on the framing of the Bill which contains that clause. We are told that the time can never come when the Natives of India can be admitted to high civil and military office. We are told that this is the condition on which we hold our power. We are told that we are bound to confer on our subjects—every benefit which they are capable of enjoying;—no—but which we can confer on them without hazard to our own domination. Against that proposition I solemnly protest as inconsistent alike with sound policy and sound morality." And in the speech of the King at the time were these words: "I have

the most confident expectation that the system of government will prove to have been wisely framed for the improvement and happiness of the Natives of India." "I would to God," added Mr. Naroji, "that it had been so, that it had been carried out faithfully" and he proceeded to give extracts showing how England had "kept promises to the ear" but had "broken them to the hope." Mr. Montgomery Martin, speaking in 1835 of a survey of the condition of affairs in Bengal and portions of Behar, the report of which had got pigeon-holed, said: "It is impossible to avoid remarking two facts as peculiarly striking first the richness of the country, and secondly, the poverty of its inhabitants. The annual drain of £3,000,000 on British India has amounted in 30 years, at 12 per cent., to the enormous sum of £723,900,000. So constant and accumulating a drain in England would soon impoverish her. How severe, then must be its effect on India where the wage of a labourer is from 2d. to 3d. per day." And, after deploring the obscurity to which the survey was consigned he added: "It can only be accounted for by supposing that the world so painful a picture of human poverty debasement and wretchedness." Sir Frederick Shore, too, in 1837, said: "I was gradually led to an inquiry into the principles and practice of the British Indian administration. . . . She has been drained of the wealth she once possessed, and her energies have been cramped by a sordid system of misrule to which the interests of millions have been sacrificed for the benefit of the few. The grinding extortion of the English Government has effected the impoverishment of the country and people to an extent almost unparalleled." Coming to 1853, Mr. Bright said: "The great body of the Indians are in a position of great impoverishment, dejection, and suffering. India must be governed not for a handful of Englishmen; you may govern India if you like for the good of England, but the good of England must come through the channels of the good of India. There are two modes of gaining anything by our connection with India. One is by plundering the people of India, and the other is by trading with them; I prefer to do it by trading with them; but, in order that England may become rich by trading with India, India itself must become rich." Then, continued Mr. Naroji, came the Indian Mutiny, caused by mis-government; and yet, he said, India was made to pay the whole cost. Mr. Bright then said: "I think that the £40,000,000, which the revolt will cost, is a grievous burden to place upon the people of India. It has come from the mismanagement of Parliament and the people of England. If every man had what was just, no doubt that £40,000,000 would have to be paid out of the taxes levied upon the people of this country." After the suppression of the Mutiny a proclamation was issued in the name of the Queen and it again, like the Act of 1833, hit the real blot upon the whole system to remedy which the proclamation made certain promises. It said: "We hold ourselves bound to the Natives of our Indian territories by the same obligations of duty which bind us to our other subjects. And these obligations, by the blessings of Almighty God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil. When by the blessings of Providence internal tranquillity shall be restored, it is our earnest desire to stimulate trade and to administer government for the benefit of the subjects resident therein. In their prosperity will be our strength, in their contentment our security, and in their gratitude our best reward." Such was the proclamation, but to the great dishonour of the authorities who ought to have carried out these promises they had no more done so than were carried out the promises of the Act of 1833. The people of India wanted nothing more than to be treated as other subjects of the British Crown as mentioned in that Proclamation. Lord Lytton at the great Durbar administration of the country you inhabit. But unfortunately the proclamation had been practically a dead letter. In 1860 Sir Charles Wood appointed a Committee of five eminent Anglo-Indians to enquire into the treatment of Indians in this respect; and they reported that Natives were practically excluded from the Civil Service because of the difficulties in the way of their leaving India and residing in England to sit for the examinations, and they recommended that simultaneous and corresponding examinations should be held both in England and India. Sir George Wingate, the father of the land reform system that he introduced in the Bombay Presidency in 1859, emphasised the difference in effect of taxes spent in a country in which they were raised, and of taxes spent in another country to that in which they were raised; and Lord Lawrence, as Viceroy in 1864, said: India, on the whole was a very poor country, and, in 1873, he told the Finance Commissioners that most of the people were so miserably poor that they had barely the means of subsistence. The late Lord Salisbury said on the occasion that it would be a great evil if the result of our dominion was that the Native of India who were capable of governing should be absolutely and helplessly excluded from such a career; and Lord Mayo, a Viceroy, said: "I believe we have not done our duty to the people of among them your civilisation and your progress and your literature, and at the same time to tell them they shall never have any chances of taking any part or share in the administration of their own country, except by their getting rid in the first instance of their European rulers." The Earl of Kimberley, too, quoted Lord Lawrence, who said that every view of duty and policy would induce them to leave as much as possible of the business of the country to be done by the people. Mr. Naroji said that he could give them many more quotations all pointing in the same direction, but time was pressing. India had undoubtedly been the victim of the invader during many centuries. The difference was that while the invader of old came, carried away much booty, and then left the country to recuperate, the India. Millions have been spent on the conquering race which might have been spent in enriching and in elevating the children of the soil. We have done much, but we can do a great deal more. It is, however, impossible, unless we spend less on the interest and more on the poor." Lord Salisbury, moreover, in 1875, said: "The injury is exaggerated in the case of India where so much of the revenue is exported without a direct equivalent. As India must be bled, the direct should be directed to the parts where the blood is congested or at least sufficient, and not to those which are already feeble from the want of it." There was no doubt, said Mr. Naroji that India was being "bled,"

indeed she was being bled to death. Lord Hartington, in 1883 said: "It is not wise to educate the people to introduce British invasion was continuous and increasing, and the country was being surely drained. This could not continue indefinitely, and the stoppage of this continual bleeding of the Indian people was in the hands of the British people. The great difficulty, however, was to make the English people realise this. Unless they made an effort to study the question it would never be understood, and the result would be that the present iniquitous system of government would go on, and, while England was thinking of the expansion of the Empire, an upheaval might, perhaps, take place in that part of it which alone entitled it to the name of Empire. Votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 28.

The British Army and India.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for War: "Whether he will state what number of the 227,000 men and officers, now being voted as the established strength of the British Army for the year 1904-05, will be usually stationed in the Indian Empire; what is the estimated proportion that the Indian revenues will thus have to sustain of the whole cost of the British Army; whether the consent of the Government of India has been formally obtained to the maintenance in that country of such troops and to the charge on the Indian revenues consequent thereon during the coming financial year; and whether the despatch recording that consent by the Governor-General in Council, together with any assents, will be placed before Parliament."

Mr. Arnold-Forster: The numbers quoted do not include troops who would usually be stationed in the Indian Empire and whose cost falls upon Indian revenues, with the exception of those native regiments now serving in Somaliland and North China, whose cost is borne by imperial funds.

The Mission to Tibet.—Mr. Trevelyan asked the Secretary of State for India: "Whether, if fighting takes place as a consequence of the advance of the political mission into Tibet, the Government will recognise the expedition as a military one, and take the necessary steps to secure the consent of both Houses of Parliament, as required by law."

Mr. Brodrick: His Majesty's Government will undoubtedly comply with the law as expressed in sections 54 and 55 of the Act for the better government of India.

In answer to Mr. Weir, Mr. Brodrick said: Col. Younghusband arrived at Tuna on Jan. 3, and has there awaited the collection of adequate supplies for a further advance. The Chinese Minister was informed on Nov. 23 that it was impossible that his Majesty's Government should consent to postpone the measures which the conduct of the Tibetans had constrained them to adopt. The British Commissioner will resort to force only in the event of his advance being forcibly resisted, or of his communications being endangered.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Weir, Mr. Brodrick said: The new Amban is reported to have arrived at Lhasa on Feb. 11 last. I have not heard that Col. Younghusband has received any communication from him or from any Tibetan officials who may be accompanying him.

Mr. Lough asked the Secretary of State for India: "Whether the armed expedition into Tibet is now about to advance from Tuna to Kalo-Iso; will he state how far the latter place is from the Indian frontier and from Lhasa; and whether, in view of the seriousness of this step, the Government can give facilities for discussing this enterprise in accordance with section 55 of the 21 and 22 Vict. c. 106, which provides that no military expedition shall be undertaken outside the frontier of India without the consent of Parliament."

Mr. Brodrick: The political mission to Tibet is now about to advance to Kalo-Iso. Kalo-Iso is about 100 miles from the Indian frontier at Rhenok, and about 200 miles from Lhasa. As I have already stated in this House, his Majesty's Government do not regard the fact that an escort accompanies the mission as necessitating any action under section 55 of the Government of India Act, 21 and 22 Vict. c. 106.

Mr. Lough further asked the Secretary of State for India: "Whether he will state in what terms, and by what document, the concurrence of the Chinese Government was expressed with reference to the British advance into Tibetan territory; whether orders have been given to Col. Younghusband for a further advance; and what are the instructions in case such advance is resisted by the Tibetans."

Mr. Brodrick: In their letter to Townley of July 13 last, the Chinese Government accepted Khambojong, in Tibet, as the meeting-place of the Commission. Further, in his Note of Dec. 22 the Chinese Minister suggested Yatung, also in Tibet, as the meeting-place. For the reasons stated in Lord Lansdowne's Note to the Chinese Minister of Nov. 23, his Majesty's Government have been unable to consent to stop the further advance of the mission into Tibet. Orders have been given for the mission to advance to Gyang-te. Col. Younghusband has been instructed to resort to force only in the event of his advance being forcibly resisted or his communications endangered.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: "Whether he will give the latest information as to the position of the armed expedition into Tibet; whether he has any information as to a landslide accident to the 23rd Pioneer; and, can he say whether, out of the 4,000 yaks originally collected for the Mission over 3,000 have died from exposure and disease."

Mr. Brodrick: (1) The mission is, according to the latest information, still at Tuna; (2) I have received no information, except through the Press, as to the accident to the 23rd Pioneer; (3) I have no precise information as to the mortality among the yaks collected for the mission, but I am aware that it has been large.

Mr. Trevelyan asked the Secretary of State for India: "Whether any further papers are about to be printed in reference to the political mission to Tibet."

Mr. Brodrick: No further papers are about to be printed at present.

Tuesday, March 29.

The Mission to Tibet.—Mr. Brodrick, replying to Mr. Trevelyan, said, as was anticipated, the advance of the mission in Tibet had been continued within the last day or two. The position was that the suzerain Power, China, had undertaken to communicate with our representatives in Tibet through its Envoy, but unfortunately the Chinese Envoy, who started in December 1902, had not yet appeared at the point of meeting. The Government had every reason to believe that the delay of the Envoy was due to the fact that the Tibetans had prevented him from obtaining the necessary transport. After many months of negotiation and patience it had become necessary to advance to the Gyang-te, and they had every reason to believe that a satisfactory arrangement would be concluded. He assured the House that the Government were determined to keep the operations in connection with the mission within bounds. They had no desire to aggress the Tibetans, and they had no design on their territory. Though they were desirous of opening up trade between India and Tibet, they had no desire to force on the Tibetans posts or anything which might savour of a military operation.

Questioned by Sir M. Bownagge as to whether the Tibetan mission which was expected at St. Petersburg last month had been informed by Russia that a later date would be more opportune for its reception and that the mission would accordingly reach St. Petersburg at the end of May with presents for the Czar from the Dalai Lama, Lord Percy replied that his Majesty's Government have no information on the subject.

The Amser of Afghanistan.—Sir Manchester Bownagge asked the Secretary of State for India: "Whether any official information has been received to the effect that the Amser of Afghanistan had been poisoned."

Mr. Brodrick replied: No.

Amounts Assigned for Railways, Water Storage, and Irrigation.—Mr. Price asked the Secretary of State for India: "If he will state what are the amounts assigned for railways and water storage or irrigation respectively of the Public Works Loan for 30,000,000 rs. just announced by the Indian Government."

Mr. Brodrick: The loan in question is required in order to provide a portion of the money to be expended on railways and irrigation works in 1904-1905, but it is not specifically allocated to particular works. The capital expenditure on irrigation works and State railways estimated for the year is—irrigation works, 833,300l.; State railways, 6,310,300l.

SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN THE C. P.

The Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments of the Central Provinces during the year 1902-1903 states that during the field season of that year, the traverse survey of an area of 629 miles and a supplementary topographical survey of 2,347 miles. The latter is an important departure, being the first step taken towards the revision of the old topographical survey for the purpose of preparing fresh cadastral sheets, which will be up to date. The cadastral survey of 10 square miles was completed in the ryotwari tracts of Nimar, and 37 and 319 square miles, respectively, in the jagirs of Hoshangabad and Chindwara. This completes the cadastral survey of the province for all lands under the management of the Revenue Department in which this survey is contemplated. Owing to one cause and another, but chiefly to the decrease in the population from famine and plague the demand for land was not as great as usual. Government do very little to encourage the settlement of waste lands and spend an insignificant sum in their development. The area actually allotted to ryots during the year amounted to 36,650 acres, bearing an assessment of Rs. 14,693, whilst the area relinquished was 19,595 acres, bearing an assessment of Rs. 8,284. The demand for land was largest in the Nimar, Balaghat and Seoni Districts. The total area allotted in these ryotwari tracts amounts to 629,834 acres with an assessment of Rs. 217,912 whilst an area of 378,638 acres with an assessment of Rs. 1,12,941, is still available for allotment, owing to the causes already mentioned, famine and crop failures, an abatement of land revenue in certain districts and in 413 deteriorated villages abatement was granted, the total reduction amounting to Rs. 17,059 for a period of three years. The deteriorated villages were situated in Betul, Bhandara and Balaghat. In these villages the net cropped area had decreased since re-settlement by 28 per cent. The rent of each tenant's holding as well as the rental valuation of the home farm was reduced in proportion to the decline in cropping within the holding. The total rental involved was reduced from Rs. 1,06,807 to Rs. 81,886, or by 23 per cent., leaving the average rent-rate a Re. 1-2 per cropped acre, or exactly the same as at re-settlement. The valuation of the home farms, where the decrease in cropping had been larger, was reduced from Rs. 42,897 to Rs. 31,278, or by 37 per cent. This abated valuation falls at Re. 1-7 per cropped acre as against Re. 1-5 at re-settlement. The gross land revenue was reduced from Rs. 1,04,992 to Rs. 79,227, or by 25 per cent, the percentage of assets taken remaining, as before, 55 per cent. The abatement of the revenue is slightly smaller than the decline in cropping, because the siwai income, which is not generally effected by crop failures, has not been proportionately reduced. Only five villages were found in which the decline in siwai income was sufficient to require a reduction in assessment. Abatements were made in the taluk of zamindars, in the malikana of villages held by inferior proprietors, and in the thika-jamas of leased villages, in proportion to the decrease in the kamijama, or fall in land revenue of zamindari villages. These abatements involved a reduction of Rs. 25,765 in the existing land revenue. They will remain in force for three years, with effect from the 1st July, 1903. On similar lines an abatement of Rs. 9,987 in 135 deteriorated villages in the Balaghat District was sanctioned for three years. The work in both districts was begun in October, 1902, and completed in July, 1903.

Some very ancient books are to be found among the sacred relics of Ceylon. They are formed of palm leaves written upon with a metal pen, and are bound merely by a silken string.

WONDERFUL MONKEYS.

THE EXPLOITS OF CONSUL II. AND THE PET OF THE CHAPLAIN-GENERAL.

Consul II., a high caste Bornean chimpanzee, who rivals the clever antics of the late Consul I., may one day in the near future delight audiences in this country. At present he is staying at Philadelphia, and he can do everything out talk. Although quite a baby, being only one year old, he has been taught to sit up like a Christian when at table to eat with a knife and fork, having first decorously tucked his napkin under his chin, to drink from a cup, remember his table manners and keep his feet under the table instead of on it, as uncultivated monkeys usually do, and to act as little like his ancestors of the Bornean jungle and as much like a well-behaved child as the most exacting could wish.

Consul has only one bad habit—he likes his after-dinner smoke. It is a sight to see this little monkey, after finishing his repast, gravely wipe his mouth on the napkin and then climb down from the high chair in which he sits at the table, settle himself comfortably on a stool, pick up his filled pipe accept a match and light the pipe, then serenely puff away until the pipe goes out for want of fuel. Apparently the little chap derives great satisfaction from his after-dinner smoke. At any rate, it has come to be considered a regular part of the day's doings with Consul II.

Perhaps the most interesting of Consul's accomplishments is his ability to hold a pen and write a letter in some mysterious calligraphy of his own. It is only necessary to place a pencil and paper in front of the high chair in which Consul is accustomed to sit for him to know what is expected of him.

Consul has one accomplishment that is useful—he can polish shoes. When the owner of the animal places his foot on the little box that Consul uses as a rest, the little fellow picks up his brush, rubs it in the blacking, thoroughly blackens the shoe, and then diligently polishes away at it until the shoe shines again. Then he will wait until the other foot is put on the box and repeat the work with that. When he has polished both the shoes, and not before, Consul will accept the penny offered by his own pocket, put the brushes away, and retire with his wealth. The pennies he stores away in a box provided for the purpose. From the jealous watch he keeps on it, it is evident he knows that some unusual value attaches to the jingling contents. No dirty boy is Consul II. He washes himself with soap and water, dries his head on a towel like any well-regulated boy, and gets into his trousers and coat without the assistance of his owner.

Another clever monkey is the pet of Bishop Taylor-Smith, the Chaplain-General of the British Forces. His name is "Bobbo," and a clever little fellow he is. He sits up at table and behaves like a little gentleman. He can feed himself equally well with either hand, and nothing delights him more than to dine with his master. When the meal is over he rises and kisses his master.

Passengers to Colombo by the 7-5 train from Kandy on the 12th instant, were somewhat surprised to find the driver pull the train up suddenly as he was running into Alawwa. It appears that a big buffalo got on the line, and, in spite of whistles, refused to budge. The cow-catcher caught the animal and knocked it down, and the wheels of the engine went right through it severing it in two in the middle and killing it at once. The next carriage, a third-class bogie, however, was not so fortunate, and the back wheels were thrown off the rails, and the engine dragged a considerable distance by the engine cutting deep into the sleepers before the train was stopped. Curiously enough, none of the passengers in the other carriages felt a jolt or jerk of any kind. The delay occasioned, however, was not very great as sidings were in close proximity, and when the next train arrived the part of the train behind the wagon which met with the accident was soon shunted and proceeded on its way after considerable delay.—"T. O."

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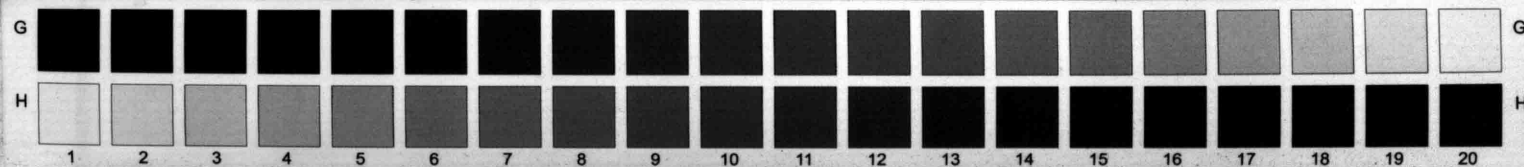
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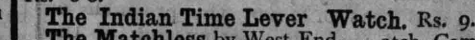
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9. DR. R. MONIER, M. B., C. M. (Edin.), Resident Surgeon, 1st Street, Government, Charitable Dispensary, says:—"... Healing Balm was used by me in several cases of Gonorrhoea and was

10. DR. R. A. FERMIE, L. R. C. P. & etc., says:—"... I used Healing Balm for Gonorrhoea in a number of my patients and found it very efficacious."

Many other certificates from doctors of equal eminence will be published hereafter and my be had on application

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ELIXIR OF LIFE.

THOUSANDS of the British public have been long suffering from various nervous and seminal complaints owing to early excesses, youthful dissipation, and residence in hot and unhealthy climates; but unfortunately they cannot find any means of perfect and permanent cure. From the days of the "Medicine man" down to the present age of modern practitioners and family doctors, the public have been gullied and deluded by an army of quacks. Most illiterate and irresponsible persons have undertaken duties that require the highest acumen and tact of the most keen-sighted and well-read man, and the result has been, as might have been anticipated, eminently disastrous. Not only scores of graves have been filled by the victims to their atrocious meddlings in medicine, but even now sufferers by thousands walk our streets in most deplorable condition, their manhood's vigor sapped and undermined, their intellects disordered, their shattered frames tottering in the wind, even their life's existence threatened by a number of fatal diseases which the renowned practitioners are unable to cope with. Under such circumstances it is a boon to the public and hope to the hopeless that the vigorous efforts and energetic researches of a distinguished American medical man after continued investigation for years, have at last discovered—

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which is composed of purely and perfectly harmless vegetable ingredients and charged with electricity in a new scientific principle, from which it acts like a miracle in the human system, and has given great satisfaction by safely and permanently curing the following diseases:—

VIZ., Nervous and functional Debility, Exhaustion, Spermatorrhoea, Gonorrhoea, Gleet, Unnatural discharges, Brain lag, Diabetes, Low spirits, Dimness of sight, Dizzy head, Confusion of ideas, Losses with dreams, at stools when passing urine, Loss of vigour, Neuralgia, Nervous headache, Muscular and local weakness, Palpitation, Eruption on face, Dyspepsia, Anemia, Impoverished blood, General debility, Mental and bodily prostration, Sleeplessness, Costiveness, Premature decay or deficiency of the vital forces, Impaired vitality, inability to perform the various duties of life or enjoy its pleasures, Incapacity for study or business, and other nervous complaints and affection of the Kidneys and Bladder, either acute or chronic.

IT relieves the patient promptly from the most distressing symptoms and rapidly restores the affected organs to their normal and natural healthy condition.

IF you value health and strength, and which to be lifted from a state of physical and mental degradation to all the joy and happiness of a robust and vigorous manhood, then use a complete

se of "Vitaline," which never meets any failure.

IN rebuilding

ALLEGED ILLEGAL AND HIGH-HANDED DOINGS OF MR. CAREY, MAGISTRATE OF MURSHIDABAD.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Murshidabad, April 20.

With regard to a chur land, formed in the bed of the Bhagirathi near Khagra sluice, which contains many tenanted pucca buildings and has been in the undisturbed possession of the Sen Zemindars of Berhampore since a long time, Mr. Carey, as Collector, instituted the following extraordinary proceedings on the 5th April last:—

In the Court of the Collector of Murshidabad.

Proceeding under Regulation XI of 1825. Dated the 5th April, 1904.

Whereas a chur has been thrown up in the bed of the navigable river Bhagirathi to the south of Khagra sluice, and whereas the said chur is on a site which is not and never had been the property of any private individual nor has been included in any permanently settled estate, and whereas the said chur has accreted to the Government poosta or artificially protected bank of the said river beyond and adjacent to which lies the Strand Road which was constructed by Government in connection with the said poosta in or about the year 1827, and has not accreted to any estate the property of a private individual, and whereas Act V (B. C.) of 1864 was extended to the said Bhagirathi river by Calcutta Gazette Notification No. 112 of the 20th March 1888, and whereas the Executive Engineer, Nadia Rivers Division is an officer of Government duly empowered to remove obstructions within the meaning of Section 5, Regulation XI of 1825 and consequently whereas no individuals are justified in making encroachments to the said chur in the said bed of the said navigable river; and whereas it appears on the report of the said Executive Engineer and on local enquiry by the Joint Magistrate of Murshidabad that certain individuals have notwithstanding the provisions of the said Section 5, Regulation XI of 1825 encroached upon the said chur, in regard to which encroachments due proceedings are now being undertaken by the said Executive Engineer and by the District Magistrate of Murshidabad for their removal.

It is hereby notified that the Collector of Murshidabad has this day taken possession of under Sec. 3 Act IV (B.C.) 1868 of the whole of the said chur except such portions as are in the actual possession of individuals who decline to give up possession and that due proceedings will be taken for the removal of the said individuals who decline to give up possession and for obtaining damages from them.

H. D. CAREY.
Collector of Murshidabad.
6-4-04.

On the same day, that is to say, the 5th of April, a Sub-Deputy Collector, on behalf of Mr. Carey, entered the chur land at nightfall, and to the astonishment of all, proclaimed by beat of drums that the Government had taken possession of it with houses and tenants between the Hospital corner sluice to Khagra sluice. A notice was then served on the Sen Zemindars to the above effect.

On the 13th of April last the Zemindars submitted the following petition to Mr. Carey as Collector:—

"The petition of Bishnu Chandra Sen, Sri-man Behari Sen, Moni Mohan Sen, Heran-moya Sen, Bodhisatya Sen, and Hem Chandra Roy, executor to the estate of late Radhika Charan Sen of Berhampore, most respectfully sheweth:—

"That with reference to a proceeding alleged to be drawn up under Regulation 11 of 1825, and dated the 6th instant, your petitioners beg to make the following statement:—

"1. That the land described in the aforesaid proceeding partly appertain to and partly are in accretion to the permanently settled estate Monja Berhampore, bearing No. 287 in the rent roll of the Murshidabad Collectorate. The proprietors whereof are your petitioners. Your petitioners are the owners of the lands referred to in the proceeding as chur and they have, for a very long time, been in undisturbed possession thereof, as such portions of Monja Berhampore to which the lands appertain and which the lands have accreted.

"2. That your petitioners beg to deny the right and titles of Government to the lands in question, and your petitioners do not admit that the said lands have accreted to the alleged Government Poosta alluded to in the proceeding. Your petitioners were not aware of such Poosta, neither do they admit the right of Government to the soil covered by the Strand Road.

"3. That sec. 3 of Act 4 of 1868 (B.C.) under which possession is alleged to have been taken by you, has no application to the land in question; and your petitioners respectfully submit that neither under that section nor any provision of any other law, your honor is entitled authorized or permitted to take possession of the lands described as chur in the proceedings. Section 3 of Act 4 of 1868 (B.C.) refers to an island which term can possibly have no application to the chur in question. Your petitioners have been advised and hence submit that the possession alleged to have been taken by your honor is illegal and 'ultravires'.

"4. That your petitioners are not aware when and how possession was taken by you of the lands. Your petitioners beg to assert that you petitioners do not consider themselves have been, in any way, dispossessed of the lands in question by the so-called possession alleged to have been taken by you. Your petitioners beg to submit that they are now in possession of the land in the same way as before.

"5. That your petitioners, being already in long possession of the lands, submit that such possession can not be summarily put an end to in the way referred to in the proceedings, and your petitioners have already urged that there is no authority in law for such an extraordinary procedure.

The Scratch of a pin may cause the look of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and neutralises a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by Smith, Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., and Abdul,

"6. Your petitioners do not admit that any encroachment has been made by any one or any portion of the bed of the river Bhagirathi and your petitioners beg leave to state that proceedings instituted by you under sec. 5 of Regulation 11 of 1825 and sec. 3 of Act of 1868 are inconsistent with the intended proceedings under Act 5 of 1868 (B. C.)

"That your petitioners, under the aforesaid circumstances, pray that their representations may be duly noted and considered by your honor."

A STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

"The Sen Babus of Berhampore purchased ten-anna share of the Berhampore Mouja from its former proprietor in 1201 B. S. In 1202 and 1203 a 'batoara' (partition) took place between the ten-anna and six-anna share-holders of the said Mouja. The batoara was conducted by the order of the then Collector of Murshidabad. In that 'batoara chittah' a low chur of the Bhagirathi was mentioned and that was settled as the property of the ten-anna share holder of the Mouja and was included in the Mouja as permanent settled property. From that time the Sen Zemindars are the real proprietors of the said property.

In 1827, a new Strand Road was constructed; its western part, which was a high land, was used as an embankment to protect it. But the land below that highland, included within the Berhampur Mouja, was recognised as the property of the Zemindari of the Sen Babus. In the Revenue Survey map of 1853-54 that land, below the Strand Road, is included within the Berhampur Mouja and the Sen Zemindars are the only proprietors of that Mouja. The land is in their undisputed possession for more than a hundred years ago. The southern portion of this land was settled by the Christian Missionaries of Berhampore by the Sen Zemindars which was in their possession for a long time.

In 1887, an embankment was constructed upon that portion of the land by the Public Works Department, but the land lying to the west of that embankment was in possession of the Zemindars. Four or five years ago, the Government dispossessed the Zemindars of this land, so that was a civil suit against the Government, the appeal of which case is now pending in the High Court, for a plot of land extending from jail corner to mission house corner sluice.

The present disputed land extends from mission house corner sluice to Khagra sluice and upon it stand numerous 2 storied and one storied 'pucca' houses. The occupants and proprietors of these houses are the ryots of the Sen Babus to whom they one and all pay rents. On Tuesday, the 6th instant, the Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Abani Charan Chatterjee, on behalf of the Collector, at 7-30 p.m. by the beat of tom tom, declared forcible possession of the land in question with houses and tenants between Hospital corner sluice to Khagra sluice, and served notice on the Sen Zemindars to that effect.

(A copy of the notice and the reply of the Sen Babus are published above).

AUTOMATIC VOTING.

In his closing speech upon the Universities Bill, the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, C.I.E., said, "The opponents of the Bill have lost all along the line; and it only remains for them now to count up their losses—for gains they have had none." The Hon'ble Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya also stated when proposing an amendment that although he knew that it would be thrown out, he thought it his duty to propose it. These remarks appear to have irritated the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and he expressed himself as follows:—"I do feel that it is misleading for one Hon'ble Member to say that an amendment shared the common fate of all other amendments and for another Hon'ble Member to say that the result of this discussion is that those who are opposed to some of the principles of this Bill 'have had no gains and have lost all along the line.' I think it is misleading, because it conveys an absolutely erroneous impression of the nature of the discussion that has been taking place. It seems to me that we must bear in mind that it is necessary that we should not convey in this respect an unfair and prejudiced impression to the public." In other words, the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Fraser wanted the public to believe that Government members were at liberty to vote as they pleased, and that there was no rule which compelled them to vote for Government. Whatever might be the desire of the Lieutenant-Governor upon his point.

to what the impression upon the public mind ought to be, there is no denying the fact that the public (we may say both European and Indian) think otherwise. And no one who has been a close reader of the debates in the Imperial and Local Legislative Councils can come to a different conclusion. When an amendment is proposed and seconded, the Member in charge of the Bill says he is not prepared to accept it on behalf of Government, and then the voting takes place. The result always is that Government members are one side. An incident in our own Council, trifling as it may be, shows that the public are not mistaken in their view. When the Hon'ble Mr. Sreenivasa Row proposed that charitable institutions should not be taxed, there was some debate upon it, and before putting the amendment to the vote His Excellency said that he desired the Members to treat it as an open question. Now, this remark meant that so far as Government members were concerned, they could vote on it as they pleased. Why this remark on the part of His Excellency if Government members had the right to treat all questions as open questions.

It appears to us that Hon'ble Members should when they assume office, take an oath to the effect that they would vote on all questions coming before them according to what they think proper and without fear or favour. In proposing this we are not casting any slur upon Hon'ble Members. As responsible officers of Government want the public to believe that Government members have a discretion when voting, this course will ensure such a feeling abroad. Judges of the High Court take an oath before entering upon their duties, and so do Privy Counsellors. Jurors are also sworn before they enter upon their duties. Such a course, if adopted in the case of Hon'ble members, will alone create in the public mind an impression which Sir Andrew Fraser wants to be created.—"Hindu."

Notes on Russo-Japanese War.

FEEDING THE TWO ARMIES.

THE SYSTEMS OF RUSSIA AND OF JAPAN COMPARED.

The war in the East is affording a test of the transport and commissariat systems of Russia and Japan.

By the Russian system an army corps of 45,900 men is supposed to be accompanied by 2,400 wagons.

When campaigning, the Russian soldier is supposed to carry two days' rations on his person. The regimental trains carry rations for each man for two days longer, and the divisional trains for from two to four days. It is reckoned that fresh supplies should always be obtainable from the surrounding country or along the line of communications within the six or eight days allowed.

The system is a good one, but the transport and commissariat broke down miserably in every important war waged by Russia during the last century. The experience of the past indicates that the Cossacks are the only Russian soldiers who are mobile and well fed in a campaign.

They are mobile because they always have large numbers of spare horses—often two for each man; they are well fed because of their skill in foraging.

Russian officers spend freely out of their private funds during a campaign in order to remedy the defects of the official transport and commissariat. They have been obliged to do so even during maneuvers.

The example was set by Skobelev, Russia's greatest General of modern times during the Russo-Turkish war. He was a rich man, and every rouble he owned was at the disposal of his beloved soldiers when they needed it.

All the official arrangements for feeding the men and caring for the sick and wounded broke down early, and Skobelev was always putting his hand in his pocket through that campaign. On one occasion he spent 15,000 roubles to charter a steamer to take a number of wounded men to Odessa for treatment. He never recovered from the Government the large sums he expended.

When Skobelev was praised for his generosity toward his troops, he replied unaffectedly,

"I owe everything to these men, and the least I can do is to spend a few thousand roubles to help them in their need."

That spirit animates most officers in the Russian army to-day. Gen. Kouropatkin, Gen. Grodekoff and other famous Russian officers trained under Skobelev followed his example.

Now it is regarded as the regular thing in the Russian army for an officer to have to spend money on his men to remedy official shortcomings. It is to be feared that graft has a great deal to do with these shortcomings.

These defects are, however, largely offset by the patient endurance of the Russian soldier, born of his doglike loyalty to the Czar. The American military attaché was impressed by that quality.

"When his battles result in defeats, when his biscuits are full of maggots, when his clothes are shabby, when his boots drop to pieces, the Russian soldier," he said, "reasons it all out slowly and can only come to the conclusion, so pathetic in its simple faith: 'Ah, if the Czar only knew!'"

"Every one within his reach he freely discusses, criticises and blames; he half suspects that his Generals may be fools and he is sure that his commissaries are rascals; but no thought of censure ever crosses his mind against the Czar."

It is hardly necessary to point out the value of this mental attitude as a military asset.

The Russian soldiers appear, as a general rule, to lack the ability to shift for themselves in matters of transport and commissariat. If their elaborate system of baggage trains breaks down, as it may well do under the strain of a hard campaign, they are utterly at a loss—unless they are Cossacks, Kalmucks or Turcomans, accustomed from boyhood to picking up their meals wherever and whenever they can find them.

The Japanese, on the contrary, showed during their war with China a remarkable ability to create their transport and commissariat apparently out of nothing as they went along. They did not trouble much about baggage trains; they had them, to be sure, well supplied and well organized, but the troops moved so quickly that they were out of touch with their wagons half the time.

They travelled in the lightest possible order and picked up any old native carts or mules or coolies they chanced to meet, making them serve the necessities of the moment, and then letting them go and getting others further on.

The only drawback of this system was that as the campaign advanced the armies became clogged by large numbers of coolies and other camp followers, who created a great deal of trouble and committed excesses, which were wrongly charged to the regular troops.

Some of the Japanese commanders adopted a short way with these obnoxious persons, driving them out of the army on pain of death as soon as their services were over. After the war it was pretty generally agreed that no similar nuisance should be tolerated in another campaign.

During the advance to the relief of the besieged legations at Peking the Japanese commissary was, by common agreement of the foreign officers, better than that of any of the European troops, and the Japanese soldiers showed a genius for foraging and accommodating their appetites to the food available in the country.

Instead of using heavy wagons liable to be bogged or to tire out the horses, the Japanese had a great number of light hand carts—much like the push carts of the Italians in New York and other American cities. These carts were drawn by coolies or by the soldiers themselves, and they were so lightly laden that they interfered little, if at all, with the mobility of the force.

The horse and mule carts were of the smallest type and lightly built. Spare animals were made to carry their own fodder, and that of the other animals as well.

These measures were rendered necessary by the smallest and weakness of the Japanese horses, which are about the scrawniest animals of their kind. The Russians, on the contrary, are well supplied with large, strong, well bred horses.

In the Turcoman campaigns in Central Asia camels were employed, but they are hardly ever used to-day by Russian troops. Thousands of dogs are pressed into service, mainly for transporting soldiers and supplies in sledges across Lake Baikal.

In the present campaign the Mikado's fighting man is carrying a great deal more food with him than his Russian adversary. Against the latter's two days' rations he carries two cooked rations of rice in addition to six emergency rations. These are contained in an aluminum mess pan, and as the rice has been boiled and dried in the sun, the entire weight is trifling.

It is commonly supposed that the Japanese soldier lives entirely on rice and dried fish, but such is not the fact. He can live, and fight well, on that spare diet, if necessary; but he is given meat and other sustaining foods whenever practicable, as well as beer or sake.

Several years ago a military commission was appointed by the Mikado to ascertain why the physique of the Japanese troops was inferior to that of the British, German and other armies. The commission came to the conclusion that beef and beer helped to build up the stalwart frames of Occidental fighting men, and since then beef and beer have been included in the diet scale of the Japanese army.

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

THE MOTOR-LORRY.

The requirements of modern warfare demand the quick transportation, very often over the roughest possible ground, of a vast mass of heavy impedimenta, and it has long been recognised that some kind of locomotive vehicle is wanted for military purposes. Such a conveyance is found in the motor-lorry, which has recently formed the subject of a series of successful trials in Edinburgh and its vicinity.

This vehicle, which is designed to carry a load of three tons, is very strongly built, and has four massive and wide wheels, each of which weighs five hundredweight. During the trials the lorry was so loaded with heavy pieces of iron, barrels of water, etc., that its total weight was made up to seven tons, and routes were purposely chosen which presented every variety of hilly road and uneven ground. In spite of all the difficulties presented, the vehicles tested attained a speed on the level of nine miles per hour, which was considerably more than that contracted for. Underneath each lorry is a large winding-drum fitted with a long steel cable, and this drum can be geared to the engine, and can be turned quite independently of the wheels; so that if half-sunk in marshy land, the vehicle can pull itself out of its difficulty by the attaching of its cable to a tree or an anchor; while, on the other hand, it can help another vehicle or a field-gun in like predicament. These lorries are fitted with four-cylinder petrol-engines of twenty-four brake-horse-power, and have been constructed by Messrs. Stirling of Granton Harbour, Edinburgh.

STEAM SMOKELESS COAL.

The coal most suitable for naval purposes is singularly restricted in its occurrence. It is found in Belgium, but its chief source is South Wales. Mr. W. Boyd Dawkins has lately pointed out that Britain has practically a monopoly in this coal, and he thinks that instead of allowing the precious material to go out of the country in such vast quantities to strengthen foreign navies, the whole of it should be bought up by our Government and jealously kept for home consumption. But his letter to the "Times" has met with a rejoinder from Cardiff which shows the practical difficulties of adopting the course which he recommends. The smallest of the collieries produces more coal than is needed by our navy. What is to be done with the rest of the collieries, with an output of many million tons per annum? What output is to be done with the railways, docks, and other works connected with these collieries, which are mainly employed in the transport and shipping of coal? Who is to feed the vast populations depending upon regular work in connection with these enterprises? With every sympathy with a suggestion born of patriotic sentiment, we fear that these questions are unanswerable.

THE WRESTLING CRAZE.

The Russian Lion, the Terrible Turk, and the Ju-jitsu Jap have set a new fashion. Wrestling has become the vogue in the upper circles of a one-time placid society, and it bids fair to become more the rage than cock-fighting was among our brutal ancestors.

The gains members of the Bath Club have taken it up, the London Amateur Wrestling Society has been formed, and throughout the suburbs the fevers is spreading. Some of the members of the Bath Club have been taking lessons (more or less surreptitiously) from the redoubtable Mr. Joseph Carroll, who is known to fame among our very best music halls.

Youthful society is very keen on the business, and even bridge is losing some of its fascination. "No trumps" has been ousted by the "Half-nelson," and similar mystic phrases. The time may not be far distant when we shall see a new kind of enterprising entertainment for At Homes. For instance:

Mr. and Mrs. Anstruther Meiklejohn request the pleasure of Mr. William Fitzpatrick's company On 19, Feb.

Tes. Progressive Wrestling.

At these foregoing exhibitions may be given by the Horrible Hindoo and the Inevitable Iceman in place of the usual society entertainer or fashionable violinist.

A collection might be taken up afterwards among the guests to defray the cost of breakages. The result of all this would be that society's lions would undergo a great change. Fashionable actors, novelists, and aristocratic clergy would have to take a back seat in favor of Mr. Pogkins, the 9st. amaten champion of Peckham, the Clever Clerkenwellian, and the Clutcher (catch-as-catch-can style) of Camberwell.

A new wave like this would be most welcome to the bored beauties of Belgravia and Mayfair, it would create something healthy to think about, and it would give employment to a deserving class of individuals who have been waiting for many years to get into the smart set.

SIDELIGHT ON THE WAR.

Queer stories, says a St. Petersburg correspondent, are dribbling out of Port Arthur. Admiral Alexieff's nephew who returned here with Mme. Stark, is responsible for the latest yarn. He declares that the telegram sent to notify the Viceroy of the rupture of diplomatic relations by Japan did not reach Port Arthur till the day after the torpedo attack, and that the whole garrison, from the Viceroy downwards, were "jumping mad" over the delay, to which they attribute the utter state of unpreparedness for an attack in which the enemy's torpedo boats found the squadron. It is beyond dispute that the warships were at anchor, and had not a sufficient pressure of steam to get any way on them. Naval men agree that had the Viceroy been warned in time—as a Foreign Office claim to have done—the warship would scarcely have been exposed in such careless fashion to a chance torpedo.

The admiral's nephew goes further, and says that, in drawing up his report to the Emperor, Alexieff expressed himself in very strong terms about the negligence of the Foreign Office, and added a few unpleasant words about the condition of the warships sent out to him, declaring that, with all the resources of the Port Arthur dockyard, he had not been able to make good the bungling and carelessness of naval architects and engineers in St. Petersburg. Needless to say, these criticisms did not appear in the Viceroy's dispatch as published here.

Since Admiral Makaroff's arrival at Port Arthur, it is an open secret that he wired confirming the tenor of the Viceroy's remarks about the structural weakness and general deficiencies of his warships. These asseverated criticisms have alarmed the Tsar, and prompted him to make a personal investigation of the men-of-war now building on the Neva. Disobedience of order, unless justified by signal successes over the enemy, is liable to lead to unpleasant results in the Russian Navy. The captain of the fast cruiser "Novik" has experienced the truth of this by being summoned before a court-martial for pursuing the Japanese warships outside Port Arthur despite orders from Admiral Starok to return. To make matters worse for this Muscovite Beresford, his ship was struck and damaged while chasing the Japs. So a court-martial has fallen to his lot instead of the much coveted Cross of St. George.

It is said that Raja Krishna Kumar of Bilari District, Moradabad, has generously paid 20,000 for the new building of the Bareilly College, and that a similar sum has been promised by Rai Sheo Box Rai Bahadur of Lakhipur, towards the building fund of the College; the latter sum is to be paid in instalments of Rs. 5,000 each, and the first instalment has been received by the Secretary. Rupees 88,269 has been promised and out of his Rs. 64,646 collected towards the endowment fund, leaving about Rs. 35,000 still to be collected.

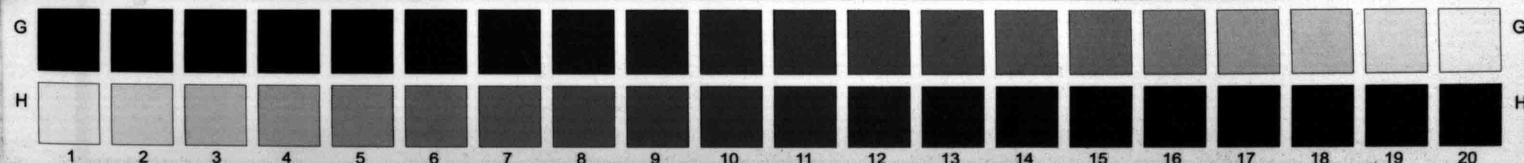
INDIGESTION
POISONS THE BLOOD.

The vigour of health depends on good digestion. Undigested food poisons the blood, which clogs up the skin, the liver and the kidneys. Food properly digested makes new strength, new blood, new flesh, new life. Relish for food and power to digest it comes with Mother Seigel's Syrup. Compounded of fruits, roots and herbs, it tones and cleanses the liver and kidneys, and clears the stomach of the decayed products of indigestion—the fruitful cause of headaches, languor, brain fog, constipation and anemia.

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

Mr. Char. Loti, writing from Buffalo Café, Oxford Street, East London, Cape Colony, on Dec. 4th, 1903, says: "Two years ago, whilst in England, I suffered agonies from indigestion. After other medicines had failed, I was persuaded to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. One bottle effected a decided improvement, and to-day my digestion is all I could wish."

BUILDS HEALTH ON
Good Digestion.



A GREAT PROCONSUL.

LORD CURZON'S FIVE YEARS IN INDIA.
(By Caldwell Lippett.)

At the beginning of May, Lord Curzon returned heartily for the good of India. To officials he and recruit his strength before commencing his work for a further term of two years in the trying climate of India. On his way he rendered an account of his first five years' stewardship, of which any man might be proud. It is no secret that the Viceroy has both his enemies and his critics. The ordinary position of the Governor-General is that of an ornamental figurehead, and no one could so outrage this tradition, take part so freely in the dust and strife of the public arena, without treading in many toes, offending many vested interests. But Lord Curzon's chief claim to fame hereafter will be that he has been above all an active-minded Viceroy, and no one will deny that he has worked wholeheartedly for the good of India. To officials he has been a hard task-master, but he has worked himself harder than anyone else. By some Englishmen he has been blamed for his excessive tenderness for the feelings and interests of the natives, but on the other hand he is regarded by many natives as being too imperially-minded. This alone shows that he has held the balance even between all parties. In an imperfect world it is impossible to please everybody.

THE DEFENCE OF THE FRONTIER.

The first duty of India's ruler is to protect his charge from external attack, and it was to this task that Lord Curzon addressed himself immediately on his arrival in the country. The independent tribes along the North-West frontier are at once the scourge and the safeguard of the more settled districts. For centuries past they have been accustomed to raiding into the plains, and robbing and murdering all within their reach; but at the same time their mountains are so impassable and the inhabitants so fierce as practically to prevent any invasion from the other side. We have spent many millions on little wars against these frontier tribes; but at the same time they supply the best fighting material in our own Army. Previous Viceroys had no settled policy with regard to these tribes. They either allowed them to plunder at will, or provoked them to revolt by occupying "strategic" posts in their territory. But Lord Curzon introduced a strong and consistent system along the whole border. He withdrew the British garrisons from tribal territory, but massed them at strategic points on our own border; he made the tribesmen the guardians of their own interests by raising regiments of native militia, and paying them to keep the rest of the tribe in order; and he made a new province with a single head out of the whole of the disturbed tract. These measures have resulted in peace during the present rule at least.

Then Lord Curzon turned his attention to what he calls himself the other side of the glacier. He marked the insidious advance of Russia in Persia and Tibet. In Persia the influence of the Muscovite is commercial and financial, and the Viceroy combated it to the best of his ability by encouraging Indian trade with Seistan and building a railway along part of that route from Quetta to Nushki. The danger is that, if Russia were once established in Seistan, she would turn our whole position of frontier forts and strategic railways, which we have been at such pains to build up. In Tibet, as in Persia, the Russian menace is very far away; but Lord Curzon takes long views, and he says distinctly in the recent Bluebook that the present mission to Tibet under Colonel Younghusband is entirely due to the evidence of Russian intrigue, which came to his notice. Anyone who reads the Bluebook will see that Lord Lansdowne's language to the Russian Ambassador was little short of an ultimatum, and such plain speaking is not used in the diplomatic world without very serious cause.

INTERNAL CALAMITIES.

Lord Curzon's administration has unfortunately been marked by two great famines, which have devastated whole districts of India, and cost the Government and the people many millions sterling, and by an endemic condition of plague, which has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and practically closed the trade of the great port of Bombay. Against such natural disasters it is impossible for any man to make headway; but Lord Curzon, on the advice of his Irrigation Commission, has started a great national scheme of irrigation as an insurance against famine, and three millions sterling are to be borrowed this year to begin the work at once. In the face of these adverse circumstances, he has nursed the finances of India so carefully that the country seems almost to have recovered now from the famines of the past decade, and last year he was able to lower the salt tax for the first time in twenty years. This is the tax that presses most heavily on the poorest section of the population.

SOME CONTENTIOUS MEASURES.

During the past five years Lord Curzon has shown an insatiable curiosity about all the conditions of India life, and has appointed commissions of inquiry into every conceivable topic. These commissions have now all handed in their recommendations, and action is beginning to be taken to carry their advice into practice. That is why Lord Curzon is leaving India amid a blaze of opposition to his three specially-contentious measures—the Official Secrets Act, the Universities Bill, and the Bill for the Partition of Bengal. In the case of the Official Secrets Act the Viceroy has the whole Press against him. It is directed against editors who publish confidential secrets of State. The editors claim that except in naval and military matters, the measure is unnecessary, and that the check should be applied elsewhere. If clerks in public departments sell secrets to editors, the clerk and not the editor should be punished. The Viceroy has defended this Act in very half-hearted fashion, and it is generally supposed that someone else is responsible for it. The Universities Bill is an attempt to make the India university approximate to its English model, and supply a training for character as well as a mere cramming-keepers, who allowed the students too much cutta for their good, and who now find their monopoly threatened. The Partition of Bengal is a purely administrative measure, necessitated by the growth of province until it has become too unwieldy to be controlled by a single of the brain. The agitation against it in Cal-

cutta; but it has caused much excitement among the natives of Bengal, who thought they were going to be made into Assamese. In India change of this or any other kind is so infrequent that it needs to be made slowly and gradually, but Lord Curzon's one defect seems to be that he is in too much of a hurry, that he has tried to crowd into five years reforms that it will take a century to assimilate. —"Daily Chronicle."

TAILS OF BORELLI'S COMET.

Berkeley, Cal., March 12.—Borelli's comet, which was discovered at Marseilles on June 21, 1904, has been the object of special observations at the Lick Observatory by Sebastian Albrecht. Between June 22 and August 18, 1903, a total of thirty-six photographs were secured with the Crocker telescope, and with the Pierson and Floyd cameras. Throughout the entire series of photographs, two distinct types of tails persist. The principal tail is long and straight in its general direction, and can be traced to the edge of the plate, a distance of 10 degrees. It was always directed almost exactly away from the sun. After leaving the head, it widens out, and in most of the plates divides into two distinct branches. The other tail is short, very much curved, and presents practically the same appearance on all the negatives.

SENSES OF REPTILES.

An Austrian doctor has lately published the results of his observations upon the special senses of animals, especially upon the sense of reptiles. He concludes that these are capable of going directly towards water, which appears to attract them, even at long distances. Light acts upon them independently of heat. Their sight is generally good, and it is probably their most acute sense, yet their vision is limited. Crocodiles cannot distinguish a man at distances above ten times their length. Fish see for only short distances. The vision of serpents is poor, the boa constrictor, for example, can see no further than one-third of its own length. Some snakes see no further than one-eighth of their own length. Frogs are better endowed, and see twenty times their length. —St. James's Gazette.

IMPORTANT FIND OF FOSSILS.

News of an important geological discovery in South America has just been received at the University of California from Astronomer W. H. Wright, head of the Lick Observatory, now in Chili. The find is remarkably perfect specimens of the ichthyosaurus, and the significance of the discovery lies in the fact that South America has never been known previously to furnish any specimens of these prehistoric silurians so valuable to science. This interesting fossil was discovered near Coquimbo, Chili, and the specimen has been unearthed in almost perfect condition. Other valuable specimens have been found in the same place. Professor Merriam, occupying the chair of historical geology at the university, says that so far as he is aware no specimen has been discovered which rivals this one in completeness or in scientific value.

CONTAMINATION OF OYSTERS BY SEWAGE.

According to the report to the Department of Commerce and Labor by United States Consul-General Halstead at Birmingham, England the royal commission on sewage disposal has issued an interim report dealing with the pollution of tidal waters and the contamination of shellfish, containing conclusions of scientific interest and commercial importance. The commissioners are satisfied that injuries to health and fisheries may be caused by the flow of unpurified sewage into tidal waters, and propose a "rivers board," which board, should make a careful survey of the waters under their jurisdiction and define those areas of the public for shore from which, in their opinion, shellfish could not be safely taken for consumption on the occurrence of dangerous conditions, such as outbreaks of infectious diseases. They are of the opinion that there is not at present exact knowledge warranting such sweeping measures as the compulsory purification of all sewage before discharge, for there is nothing, they state, in the appearance of shellfish to distinguish those which have been exposed to sewage contamination from those which have not been so exposed. The denial of the validity of bacteriological examination as a test is very important, for this test has rested on the assumption that the "Bacillus coli communis," or other allied organism, does not normally occur in the oyster. Over 1,000 oysters taken from the purest waters and from beds obviously liable to pollution, were examined, and the "Bacillus coli" was found in nearly all of them, from whatever laying they were taken, though as a rule a very much smaller number of bacilli was found in those from pure than in those from polluted waters.

The commissioners say that if it should be seriously contended that the mere presence of "Bacillus coli," or coli-like microbes, in an oyster, should condemn it, few oysters would probably escape condemnation. Concerning the possibilities of the communication of disease by shellfish, they state that though there is a prima-facie probability that at times living typhoid bacilli might be conveyed by shellfish to the consumer and produce enteric fever, experience confirms their view that the extent to which the illness is actually conveyed cannot be determined, the present state of knowledge on the subject not making it possible to make an accurate numerical statement. As indicating the commercial need of preventive measures, not only in the interest of the public health but for the protection of trade itself, it is estimated that the capital value of the industry around the coast is between \$6,000,000 (\$29,199,000) and \$8,000,000 (\$38,932,000), employing a large number of men, and additionally the interests of the shell trade are very extensive and "oyster scarcities" occurring from time to time, cause a serious diminution of the consumption of oysters and throw many men out of work.

LOVE.

THE IDEAL AND THE REAL.

BY "RITA."

Love is a word so lightly used in modern days that its definition would require the aid of a court of inquiry—such a court as Marguerite de Valois established in those famed groves where life was but a pageant of pleasure lived under one golden rule, "Qu'on m'aime, mais évite l'esprit."

It is that "esprit" love so often lacks. For when it is light it is too careless for consideration, and when it is strong and deep and earnest it touches too closely on tragedy. As it is the most beautiful of emotions, so also it is the most beautiful of tragedies. For exaction and jealousies and heart-burning and rivalry are rarely far distant from "great passions," and unless love is a great passion, it makes no strenuous demand on its victims.

That there are many forms and phases of love is provable to any student of life. But the poet and dramatist and writer seem of opinion that the tragic is its only possible side. There are women so lovable yet so weak, that they seem to challenge an untoward fate. There are men so strong yet so contemptible, that love becomes but a frail plaything in their hands, and when tired of one toy they buy another. One cannot regard such beings as utterly evil. They are sincere enough while the fancy lasts but the pity is it never lasts long.

A GIRL'S LOVE.

Most women set out in life with an ideal of a man. A girl's love is only too often a romantic longing for the impossible; a desire for impassioned adoration, such as she has read of in books—such as few men are capable of giving; the reason being that while the girl is going through an initial stage of comprehension, the man has long passed it. He knows a great deal more about her than she knows about him, and while she regards marriage as a revel of exactions and petty tyrannies he begins to assert himself after the first captivity of courtship.

A love founded on mutual sympathy and appreciation is the only love that can stand the severe tests of time and human infirmities and human weakness.

To idealise the lover is often a girl's mistaken method of idealising love. But there is a wide gulf between the feeling and the author or inspirer of that feeling. He may be, and often is, the very reverse of the ideal. But she insists on imagined perfections instead of testing the real good qualities he may possess. Then comes the inevitable disillusion; the discovery of the feet of clay, and the broken reed, and all the other sadly sentimental reproaches heaped by women on their fallen idols. "Be as we want you to be—not as you are," is their cry, and as man after all is but a fallible and imperfect piece of workmanship, he can only answer that appeal by going on in his same old way, and accepting abuse or contempt for being consistent.

A LESSON IN AVOIDANCE.

Woman, as exemplifying the more complex and emotional sex, sets a greater store on love than man. It is her life, her daily bread, her heaven, her sole idea of happiness. Man regards it more temperately—in contradistinction to passion. For passion is rarely anything but a short-lived tragedy; a thunderstorm of conflicting elements. Love is the more tranquil calm of the cleared atmosphere, the aftermath of frenzied and torrid desires that never mean lasting happiness, and should be studied as a lesson in avoidance.

Love attacks the heart and leaves the brain alone; at last the love of man for woman, and woman for man. In other relationships a more equable balance is struck, and reason and the senses do not meet on a battle-ground. Friends, parents, children, sisters, brothers, these can love and love very deeply and disinterestedly. Yet they do not fear life to pieces at the sudden discovery of a fault, or a cold look, or a hasty word. The world and "all that therein is" can still hold some use and beauty and goodness, though one human unit has proved fallible. But with sex-love, all is irrational, exacting, impassion. It is absolutely blind and deal to reason, to counsel, to restraint, while the fever lasts. Commonsense becomes an enemy and advice an insult. The mind leaps every barrier to reach its own conclusions. The heart counts by its own throbs, and loss by its own gain. Yet if only tenderness and loyalty and perfect trust remained after the fever had run its course, there would be little cause of complaint. For ultimate content is the next thing to passionate happiness.

THE LOVE STORY AND THE LIFE STORY.

It is in the preservation of such means to an end that the wiseman and woman show their wisdom. In all fiction love stories are the favourite. But the love story ends where the life story begins—at the church door. We are not so much the reaction, the disillusions, the cold chills that follow the seething hurricane; the first step of common sense on the matrimonial threshold; the first awakening of just ordinary human heart to human heart. Passion is not a habit. It is only a mood of the senses, and like all moods, it passes. Sometimes it leaves regret behind, or wonder or self-contempt; or just the sweet, satisfied calm of union complete and sympathetic.

The last phase is the nearest approach to happiness mere mortals should expect. If we watch the sea we note that wave replaces wave yet no two waves possess the same strength, or form, or musical rhythm. Human love is much the same. It sweeps on and on, now strong, now weak; now sonorous with throbbing melody, now broken and weary and sad with deep unrest. But in every phase it is still love. The animating force of life's changeful ocean; the hidden power that creates its moods of joy or sorrow; its rapture or delight! The love story of fiction rarely goes beyond the threshold of its theme. It fears to disenchant the reader. It is only the law breakers and the lovers of Emancipation who are permitted to reveal their rebellious selves in literature. The love story pure and simple leaves off with the ring and the wedding cake, and the "Alone at last" of the celebrated picture.

THE RAREST THING.

Of course, this is essentially wrong. To point life as life is to paint it in shadow as in sun; in twilight as in dawn; in disillusion as in idealism. But our humanitarian writers probably know that of all rare things a true and lasting Love is rarest. So they refrain from pursuing Love the Giant through those terribly

disenchanted regions that leave him Love the Dwarf. They wish to paint life pleasantly and not add to its remorseless recollections.

Marriage may be the institution of reason and necessity. But Love is a demand. And considering it as such, the wonder is that the demand is so lightly answered, so readily assured. The call of heart to heart, of kindred soul to kindred soul, is no light thing. On the contrary it is very serious, solemn and often very tragic. It seems a strange thing that out of a world of millions one individual is positively confident that his or her life choice is the one perfectly suitable sympathetic and eternal.

At love's perjuries, Love may well have laughed. At love's fatuous belief in the "only and eternal we" so much older and wiser laugh still. "We know. We have been through it all ourselves. The broken spell the Dead Sea apples, the path of disillusion have we not seen and tasted and trodden them all. And we shrug shoulders and advise and prophesy, and all the time we know it is no use. In like manner were we advised, in like manner were prophetic warnings heeded at our infatuated heads, and we were deaf as adders and wise (in our own conceit) as serpents."

Providence has equipped each of us for our own battle in life, and we must fight it out. No lesson learnt by another has ever been wise enough or convincing enough to turn us back into safer tracks. Experience is at once the desire and the disappointment of youth, and when nature is at flood-tide, what hand shall stay the dancing craft that floats so gaily out to life's wide sea beyond confident of port, of land, of anchorage—of everything save failure and shipwreck and disaster waiting in the glorious unknown. —"Daily Mail."

THE LATE DR. MOHENDRA LALL SIRCAR.

LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE.

Dr. Amrita Lal Sircar, F. C. S., has received the following letters of condolence from England on his sad bereavement in the death of his father, the late lamented Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. The letters speak for themselves and testify to the regard in which Dr. Sircar was held by successive Viceroys and Lieutenant-Governors.

Foreign Office,
March 30, 1904.

Dear Mr. Sircar,--

I have received with great regret the sad news of the death of your father, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. He did much for the cultivation of science in India and will be a severe loss to the Association with which he was so intimately connected. Pray accept my most sincere sympathy in your bereavement as well as my thanks for having communicated with me on the subject. I have a very agreeable recollection of the late Dr. Sircar.

Yours very truly,
(Sd.) Lansdowne.

9, Chelsea Embankment, S. W.,
March 22, 1904.

Dear Sir,—Lord Ripon has received with much regret your letter announcing the death of your father, whose scientific attainments and zeal for the cultivation of science had won for him the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) F. S. QUINTON,
India Office, Whitehall, S. W.,
21st March, 1904.

Dear Sir,—It is with very great regret that I have learnt from your letter, of the death of your respected father, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. His interest in science and his persevering endeavours to encourage a taste for scientific study among his countrymen, made him one of the most useful members of society of his day, while his personal characteristics secured for him the respect and affection of all who knew him. I can only assure you of the deep sympathy which I feel for his bereaved family.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) S. C. BAYLEY.

Fernwood, Wimbledon Park, S. W.,
March 20, 1904.

My dear Sir,—I have heard with sincere regret of the death of your father, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. I had a high esteem for him and felt that he had done a great deal for the spread of scientific study in Bengal. I trust that his end was a peaceful one.

I hope the Association will flourish in spite of this loss, and that the impetus given by the founder was sufficient to carry it forward in its work of usefulness.

I am, yours faithfully,
(Sd.) CHARLES A. ELLIOTT.

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CALCUTTA.

Report of a fresh engagement between the Mullah's men and the British soldiers employed in the Somali campaign has reached here. Two hundred and fifty of the Mullah's men have come in to El Dab and surrendered, and it is probable that large numbers will follow. An engagement took place in which a company of British Mounted Infantry, under Captain Shackerby, killed fifty of the enemy, capturing twenty-five rifles. There were no casualties on our side. The Mullah is making his way to Baran in Southern Nugal, about seventy miles east of Bohote, with a small following of riflemen. It is believed that he will keep quiet for a year or two in order to reestablish his lost prestige.

A Poona correspondent writes to say that great sensation has been caused there owing to the trial of a European named Maybury on charges of forging cheques. It is said that the accused after committing the above offence made himself scarce. He was lately arrested in Calcutta and brought over to Poona for trial. On Friday last he was placed before Mr. Lucas, the Sessions Judge. Evidence was given showing that the prisoner had sent a cheque to be cashed and received the amount. Asked if he had anything to say, the accused threw all the blame on Mr. Southwood, a former manager of the Napier Hotel. He said that Mr. Southwood's niece and another person could testify in his favour. The case came on again the following morning, when the Judge decided to send to Calcutta for witnesses and adjourned the case "sine die."

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